U.N. okays Dubai-Iraq shipping shuttle

NICOSIA (R) — The U.N. Sanctions Committee has agreed in principle to a request from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for a principle to a request from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for a direct shipping link between the UAE and Iraq, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported on Monday. A ship would shuttle food and other U.N. approved supplies to the Iraqi Gulf port of Umm Qast from Jabel Ali, a port in Dubai in the UAE. The official Iraqi media has reported four ships bringing food to Umm Qast since tate last year — the first to do so since the end of the 1990-91 war over Kuwait, but a regular shuttle would be new. MEES said the committee stipulated that Iraq can have no equity stake in the company, nor will it be allowed to provide bunker fuel, even for free as the Iraqi government has offered. MEES said it understood passengers would also be banned. The authoritative newsletter also said Iraq is campaigning actively to speed up the timetable for the lifting of sanctions. The ban on Iraqi oil exports is officially tied only to compliance on the destruction of Iraqi meanons though Security compliance on the destruction of Iraqi weapons, though Security Council members are now seeking Iraqi compliance on other issues, to which wider U.N. sanctions are linked.



PLO, Arabs in contact on meeting

AMMAN (R) — A Palestinian official said on Monday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was in contact with Arab states on convening an emergency meeting to back its conditions for resuming peace talks with Israel, suspended after the Hebron mosque massacre. "The PLO is awaiting the response to its call for such a meeting to discuss the peace process from the Arab parties to the peace talks, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union," said Salch Raziat, member of the Palestine Central Council. The PLO wants Arabs to back its demands for international protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories and the disarming of Jewish settlers before it resumes peace talks. Mr. Raafat told Reuters Syria and Egypt had so far voiced backing for such a meeting. Contacts were continuing with Saudi Arabia. Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's foreign affairs chief this week visited Syria, which has criticised the PLO for reaching a Palestinian self-rule deal with Israel in September. PLO leader Yasser Arafat met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday.

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Libya: Blast convicts 'scapegoats'

TUNIS (R) — Libya Monday attacked a U.S. court decision declaring four people guilty of bombing New York's World Trade Centre and called the defendants "scapegoats" for shortcomings of the U.S. administration. "This is an abject and unjust ruling based on racism," said the commentator of the official Libyan news agency JANA. "No material evidence was presented to demonstrate without any doubt if the American trade centre was bombed or (if) it exploded ... (for) any other reason, nor was evidence presented on the link between those condemned by the court and this event." the commentator added. "Therefore there was no reason to accuse these people and condemn them other than saying they were Muslims."

Rockets kill 6 in Afghan capital

KABUL (AP) — A rocket attack near a food distribution site Monday killed at least six people, injured 30 and sent hundreds more scrambling for cover, officials said. The rival factions exchanged fire throughout the day, sending scores of rockets crashing into the battered capital. Aid agencies, meanwhile, began handing out bags of wheat brought in by the United Nations a day earlier. The aid workers were giving food to hungry residents at a mosque in northwest Kabul when several rockets slammed into a nearby street, causing the deaths and injuries (see earlier story on page 10).

7th body found in Gloucester

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GLOUCESTER (AP) -Police found a seventh body Monday buried in the house of a man charged with killing three women, including his 16year-old daughter. Frederick West appeared in magistrates court Monday and was ordered held for a further four days. He has not entered a plea. Gloucester police said the three bodies found over the weekend buried under the basement of the shabby threestorey Victorian row house were also female. Police could not say if the seventh body, also found under the basement, was male or female. Police have not said how any of the victims had died (see story on page 8). Chief Inspector Colin Handy said once police have finished searching the house, including demolishing an addition built by Mr. West, they could search some other sites and they had no idea how many bodies they would find.

Tunisia bans entry to le Monde reporter

PARIS (R) — The French newspaper le Monde said on Monday that Tunisia had told one of its reporters he would be turned back if he tried to enter the country to cover forthcoming elections. Le Monde said its roving correspondent, Jacques de Barrin, was told by the Tunisian Agency for External Communication (ATCE) that he was not welcome in the country. Spokesman for the Paris office of ATCE, a state-run body dealing with the foreign news media, and the Tunisian embassy declined to comment. French nationals do not need a visa to visit Tunisia. Campaigning for Tunisia's presidential and parliamentary elections on March 20 started

iran moves 2,400 Iragis to camp .

NICOSIA (R) — Some 2,400 Iraqis who fled to Iran from army attacks in southern marshes have been transferred to a camp away from the border, Iran's IRNA news agency said on Monday. It quoted a local official as saying the refugees were taken by bus to Bani Najjar camp near Shushtar about 120 kilometres from the border over the past two weeks. The refugees began streaming into Iran last July.

Israel offers new proposals to Arafat

Direct contacts revivéd, but present Israeli ideas unlikely to lift logjam

Rabin warns against delay in talks, defers vote on settlements

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL ON MONDAY offered Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat new proposals to restart Middle East peace negotiations that were suspended following the Hebron mosque massacre.

But Palestinian officials in Tunis said they contained "nothing new" towards meeting PLO demands and were likely to be rejected.

The proposals were presented to Mr. Arafat by Jacques Neriah, a top adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ynzhak Rabin, in a meeting at a presidential palace in suburban Heliopolis in Cairo.

It as the first official contact between the two sides since Feb. 25, when a Jewish settler opened fire on Palestinians praying in a mosque in the West Bank town of Hebron. killing at least 60 Palestinians.

The PLO halted negotiations with Israel after the massacre and said talks would not resume until the Jewish state agrees to guarantee the security of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza

Strip.
Monday's meeting was shrouded in secrecy, with both Israeli and PLO officials in Cairo refusing even to confirm

it occurred. Egyptian government offi-cials said it had taken place. PLO officials in Tunis, speaking on condition of

anonymity, said Mr. Neriah gave Mr. Arafat new proposals, but revealed no details. They said Mr. Arafat was withholding comment until he could consult with the United

States and Russia, the cosponsors of the peace process. Mr. Arafat and Mr. Neriah left Egypt after the meeting without speaking to reporters.

Mr. Neriah had participated

in recent rounds of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations in Egypt.

Egypt, long a mediator in the peace talks, has been trying to get the two sides back together since the massacre.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said that in addition to dealing with the Israel-PLO talks, the latest Israeli proposals were aimed at breaking a logjam in the U.N. Security Council on the massacre.

Security Council members have been deadlocked on the wording of a resolution to condemn the Feb. 25 slayings and consider creation of an observer force in the occupied terri-

Mr. Arafat told reporters after meeting with Egyptian officials on Sunday he would not commit to new talks with Israel until the U.N. Security Council passes the resolution.

MENA also said Israel was proposing that Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin meet in Cairo or Washington to resolve the im-

Mr. Arafat already has turned down two requests from Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres for face-to-face talks, the agency said.

He urged the United Nations on Monday to speed up a long-delayed resolution on the Hebron slaughter, saying this was a prerequisite for resum negotiations with Israel.

We cannot talk about the resumption of peace talks with Israel before the United Nations position and resolution come out clear," Mr. Arafat

"We insist that the Security Council condemn this ugly massacre (in a resolution) that provides full protection for our people and disarms the (Jewish) settlers," he added.

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli soldiers Monday guard Palestinian stu-

The university was ordered closed until further

Palestinian shot dead in Hebron

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian and seriously wounded one person during stone-throwing incidents in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron on Monday, hospital officials said.

A Jewish settler massacred about 60 Muslim worshippers in Hebron 11 days ago, spark-ing almost daily unrest in the city of 110,000 Palestinians. Israeli soldiers shot and

wounded 17 Palestinians and an American news photo-grapher in the occupied territories on Monday.

Seventeen Palestinians were wounded by army gunfire in Hebron during protests that erupted after the military briefly lifted a curfew imposed in the wake of the mosque mas-

The photographer, who works for the Associated Press, was identified by AP as John Gaps III, 35. Nick Tatro, AP Israel

bureau chief, said a soldier with an automatic weapon equipped with a telescopic site shot Gaps in the knee from a distance of about 100 metres in Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

"There was a burning tyre nearby and a few Palestinian children, but no demonstration," Mr. Tatro said. "No other shots were fired at anybody or anything. I filed a complaint with the foreign press association and the army spokesman's office" (see page

Earlier, Israel Radio and security sources said an Israeli policeman was wounded when his patrol car came under fire at a checkpoint in the Gaza

According to the radio, the driver of a suspicious caropened fire after police ordered him to pull over. It said the policeman was injured

(Continued on page 5)

Settler families quit Kiryat Arba as Hamas sets March 15 deadline comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to bring to

after what I went through," he "They have come to the

Arba," said housing ministry official Israel Schwartz. Mr. Schwartz told Israel Radio the ministry expected

Mr. Schwartz told Israel Radio that some 30 families. mostly from Kiryat Arba, have asked for government assist-

ance to move back to Israel because they fear Arab vengeance.

(Continued on page 3)

6 SLA men, 2 others killed in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) - Resistance fighters killed six Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen and two civilians on the edge of an Israeli-occupied sector of South Lebanon Monday, security sources said.

The fatalities were the highest in South Lebanon in nearly six months.

Four militiamen were killed at mid-morning in two simultaneous roadside bombs in the central and eastern sectors of an area of South Lebanon Israel occupied as a "security zone" against guerrilla attacks. Several hours later, two more SLA militiamen died in a third roadside bomb.

The civilians, a man and a woman, were kidnapped by guerrillas on the edge of the "sercurity zone." Their bullet riddled bodies were found later in the fields, said the sources.

No explanation was available for the civilian killing, but it was believed that the two were targetted as suspected collaborators with the İsraelibacked SLA.

Israeli forces and SLA gunmen retaliated for the bomb attacks by firing artillery and mortars on suspected guerrilla hideouts just north of the "security zone." Several villages in Iqlim Al Tuffah were targetted by the shelling, said

They said the guerrillas detonated by remote control a roadside bomb at the Beit Yahoun passageway, which links the occupied zone's eastern sector with government-held territory to the north.

Another remote-controlled bomb exploded at the same time near the Rihan hilltop outpost in the central sector of the zone as an SLA patrol drove by. Three SLA militiamen died in that attack.

Other guerrillas firing antitank rockets and mortar bombs attacked four Israeli and SLA positions on the zone but there were no casualties.

At the Beit Yahoun crossing, a 35-year-old commander of the local SLA garrison, was killed. Abdul Nabi Ayoub, also known as Al Jalbout, was riding in one of two cars hit by the bomb near the crossing,

said the sources. Less than three hours after the first attack at Beit Yahoun, a roadside bomb exploded as an SLA foot patrol conducted searches in the area of the first explosion. The security sources said two militiamen were killed and seven wounded, most of them seriously, in the second bombing.

Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the Beit Yahoun attack. But Hizbollah made no mention of the Rihan attack and the kidnapping and killing of civilians.

Monday's fatalities were the highest since Aug. 19 when guerrillas attacked an Israeli patrol, killing eight soldiers. Tension heightened in South

Lebanon after Hizbollah guerrillas ambushed an Israeli patrol inside the "security zone" Feb. 7, killing four soldiers and wounding five others.

The "security zone" covers 1,100 square kilometres strechting from the Mediterranean coast 80 kilometres inland to the foothills of Mount Her-

in a statement that settlers had one week to quit the settlements, and specifically named Kiryat Arba.

"We helped about 10 fami-

lies. We helped them with rent

for a limited time on a huma-

nitarian basis," said Ofra Preus, an adviser to Housing

Minister Binyamin Ben-

She said a total of 30 Kirvat

Arba familes had applied for

rent subsidies inside Israel.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) - About 10 families living in the Jewish settlement that was home to the Hebron mosque killer are seeking safety inside Israel and are being helped by the Israeli government. Another 20 have asked for

government help and a Labour Party legislator said around 100 had inquired about moving out. Some 6,000 Israelis live in the settlement.

Official government policy is to discourage an exodus from settlements in the Israelioccupied territories.

Palestinian groups have threatened to retaliate against settlers for the Feb. 25 killing by a Jewish settler of some 60 Palestinians in the mosque, near Kiryat Arba. On Monday, one group said.

Eliezer.

Avi, head of a family of six who left Kiryat Arba last Thursday, said he was fed up with life in the settlement one of the most militant Israeli enclaves in the territories.

"In the aftermath of the incident (massacre), my children became anxious... I decided enough. There is nothing

ministry and announced in an unequivocal way and not manipulatively that they are anxious about living in Kiryat

more families to ask for the 800 shekel (\$270) monthly assist-

"They said straight out... that they're terrified of living

U.N. prepares to reopen Tuzla; Bosnian Serbs bombard Maglaj van Karadzic agreed in Mos-

ZAGHREB (Agencies) — U.N. peacekeèpers deployed troops around Tuzia airport Monday, ready to open a strategic lifeline to the northern Muslim enclave, a U.N. official said.

"We have begun to station soldiers there today," U.N. deputy spokesman Matthew Nerzig said. "It is a part of the effort to reopen Tuzla airport."

The U.N. is poised to reopen the former military airport, to help it to deliver aid to hundreds of thousands of local residents and refugees from eastern Bosnia, cut-off from receiving adequate food supplies by besieging Bosnian Serb forces.

Mr. Nerzig said the U.N. was set to open the airport with or without the consent of the Srebs who object, saying they fear the Mushim-led Bosnian army would use it for smuggling weapons.
"The U.N. will reopen the

airport whether diplomatically

or with other means," he said.

Bosnian Serb leader Rado-

cow last week to reopen the airport only if Russian U.N. monitors were deployed there to ensure it would be used solely for humanitarian pur-This suggestion drew objections from the Sarajevo government which accused the

Russian peacekeepers of siding

with the Serbs. Bosnian Serbs pounded an isolated pocket of government territory Monday in northern Bosnia and blocked critical aid shipments with "no answer and no excuse," U.N. officials said.

Most of Bosnia was reported to be calm, almost four weeks into a truce between government forces and Serbs around Sarajevo and 1½ weeks into a separate ceasefire between the Muslim-led government and Croats in central Bosnia.

U.N. officials reported that Croats and the Muslim-led army were marking minefields and beginning to turn in weapons to cement their truce. Heavy weaponry was to be moved or collected by noon

In Sarajevo, Bosnian radio said three government soldiers were wounded Monday morning near the Jewish cemetery, where there have been recent skirmishes with Serb forces. It remained mostly quiet elsewhere in the Bosnian capital.

But Monday was another hard day for the besieged government-controlled enclave of Maglaj, about 80 kilometres north of Sarajevo. It is home to about 19,000 people.

Neither U.N. peacekeeping forces nor aid organisations have a regular presence there.

Bosnian radio reported heavy shelling of Maglaj on Monday morning, despite a planned ceasefire intended to permit an exchange of bodies of dead soldiers. U.N. spokesman Major Jose Labandeira in Sarajevo said U.N. observers in the area also reported heavy shelling, but had no details.

"We are not allowed to move troops to Maglaj," he

₹ Jordan: Israeli negligence caused Hebron massacre

Monday lodged a protest with the United Nations Security Council against plans by Israeli settlers to prevent Muslims from reaching Islamic holy sites in occupied Jerusalem and sought U.N. action to block

The Jordanian protest and demand came in a letter sent by the Kingdom's permanent delegate to the U.N., Adnan Abu Odeh.

Citing a Dec. 22 report by the Jerusalem Post that extremist settlers had already worked out plans to prevent Muslims from going to their holy places, Mr. Abu Odeh demanded that the Jordanian letter of protest be circulated as a United Nations document.

In the letter, Mr. Abu Odeh blamed Israel for failing to take appropriate measures to protect the Palestinians and prevent the Feb. 25 massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque in the occupied West Bank town of

Hebron. At least 60 Palestinians were killed and over 400 wounded in the attack, which Israel said

was carried out by a lone extremist Jewish settler.-The Jordanian protest letter to the U.N., a text of which was carried by the Jordan

News Agency, Petra, said: "Based on the U.N. Security massacre at the Al Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron, and out of Jordan's commitment to achieving a just, durable and success the whole peace process that started in Madrid in 1991, I send you a copy of a report published by the Jerusalem Post... in its issue of Dec. 22, 1993.

"The target is Jabal Al Heikel (Temple Mount, as the Israelis call the area). This report exposes the illintentions of the extremist Jewish groups in the occupied territories i.e. Kach movement, which has carried out provocative and terrorist actions to undermine the peace

"Publishing such a report at that time was a warning to the Israeli government, which claims it supports the peace efforts, to take extra precautions against these groups to preempt the massacre in the Al Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

"Negligence on the part of the Israeli government was behind that massacre.

"I hope your council will take this report into consideration that might lead to a suitable resolution on protection for the Palestinians and the holy shrines until a final settlement is reached for the Middle East conflict."

The Security Council is debating a draft resolution on the Hebron massacre, but differences between Washington and the Palestine Liberation ion (PLO) are hol ing up agreement on the text of

the resolution. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Monday called on the council to expedite the endorsement of the resolution.

Israeli-Arab team arrives in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria gave a low-key welcome Mon-day to a delegation of Israeli Arabs on the first-ever official

visit by Israelis to Syria. Damascus Mayor Walid Hamimiyah and Khaled Fahoum, former speaker of the Palestine National Council and spokesman for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), welcomed the 58-member delegation at Damascus international airport at 12:30 p.m. (1030 GMT).

A dozen plainclothes security officials surrounded the plane as the delegation, headed by Israeli parliamentarian Abdul Wahab Darawshe, descended the aircraft steps. The group includes politicians. academics, writers and other prominent Israeli Arabs. Nine are journalists.

Mr. Darawshe said in an airport statement that the main aim of the visit was to offer condolences to President Hafez Al Assad on the death of his son Basel, who was killed in a car crash Jan. 21. He said he was not carrying

any messages to Mr. Assad, whom the group is scheduled to meet Wednesday. But Mr. Darawshe has not ruled out political talks if Syria wishes. A Syrian official said no

officials greeted the group because the government did not want to cast political overtones on the visit. He said Syria considered the delegation to be just like any other Arab delegation that has come to offer condolences.

The visit comes at a very sensitive time in the wake of the Hebron massacre, which dramatically heightened tensions between the Arab World and Israel and caused the suspension of the 28-month-old Middle East Peace talks.

Before the massacre, Mr. Assad held a summit with President Bill Clinton after which he held out the possibility of

However, Damascus is demanding the return of the entire Golan Heights, seized by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, as

a precondition to peace. Israel and Syria have been in a state of war since 1948, when the Jewish state was formed. More than 4,500 Syrians were killed and 21,000 wounded in the four Arab-Israeli wars since 1948. Israel lost more than 10,000 people in these

The visit of the Israeli-Arab delegation suggests that despite the lack of progress in the talks, the Syrians did not want to put an end to the negotiations and are showing flexibility by talking to members of Israel's parliament, an institution Damascus does not directly recognise.

The PLO's Fahoum, whose brother Hani was part of the delegation, said the visit would give a push to the stalled peace taiks.

"The trip will definitely give an impetus to the negotiations because it will strengthen Arab solidarity thus reinforcing the wish for a comprehensive peace settlement." Mr. Fahoum told the Associated Press. As members of the group

descended the aircraft steps, their eyes filled with wonder as they darted from left to right. Some captured their first impressions of Syria on camera. "I don't know whether I'm

dreaming or awake," said Na'eema Jibara, 39, from Taibe, near Ramallah, "I can't believe I'm in an Arab coun-But few Syrians were aware of the group's visit. The state

run Syrian Arab News agency,

which saying feeds Syria's

media, issued a two-paragraph

dispatch saying only that a

delegation of leading Palesti-(Continued on page 5)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indonesians hold protest against the U.S.

JAKARTA (R) - A group of Indonesian Muslim students

staged a demonstration in front of the U.S. mission in North

Sumatra. Condemning what it called a lack of U.S. action

following the Hebron massacre, its leader said on Monday.

About 400 students took part in the demonstration on Friday

in front of the U.S. consulate in North Sumatra's capital of

Medan, 1,400 kilometres northwest of Jakarta, said Ucok

Roufdy, head of the Muslim Student Association (HMI) in

Medan. "The United States has boasted itself as the champion

of human rights. But what has it done about the Hebron

killing?" Mr. Roufdy told Reuters by telephone. He said the

peaceful demonstration, one in a series held by students in

Patience wears thin in Somalia

By Terry Leonard The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — General Mohammad Farrah Aideed, the strongman of south Mogadishu, has burglar bars on the window of his newly restored

On any other whitewashed villa in a city teeming with cutthroats and thieves, the gently curving wrought-iron guards would seem prudent.

But Gen. Aideed has a wellarmed militia that fiercely defended the house, which was heavily damaged in an American attack last June. What burglar would dare scale the walls and pry open a window?

Burglar bars, armed guards and high walls with broken glass embedded on top are simply a sign of the times. Now that American and most European soldiers are withdrawing and the United Nations is scaling down its mission. Somalia is slowly being left to grapple with its own problems.

Unless Somalis find Somali solutions to Somali problems and do it soon, U.N. officials say, the country will find little peace behind its high fences.

"We keep telling the Somalis not to forget Afghanistan," said Staffan de Mistura, director of the U.N. Children's Fund in Somalia. "They were loved in the West but they went too far. What are they now but an embarrassing backyard, an embarrassing tragedy that is forgotten and left be-

More is dwindling in Somalia than the number of foreign peacekeepers: International goodwill and patience are flag-

ging.
Bill Kirk, and Australian police superintendent helping to train 10,000 Somali policemen to fight the rising banditry and violence, says the United Nations cannot cope with the clan rivalries that complicate recruiting and undermine confidence and support for the

"It's a real problem, but it is really a problem for the Somalis," he said. "They are going to have to work it out.'

Some Somalis search for answers. Clan elders and religious leaders have used their influence to negotiate freedom for kidnapped foreigners and confront the banditry. In some places, they have established courts that mete out punishment according to a harsh Islamic code that allows execution

and the severing of limbs. Other Somalis bristle at suggestions that the Western departure signals the beginning of the end for Somalia.

"The presence of foreign troops here is not preventing any Somalis from fighting each other," said Abdul Karim Ahmad Ali, secretary-general of Gen. Aideed's political organisation, the Somali National Alliance.

"They are not preventing any clashes in the country. They remain behind their sandbags. It is the Somali people who have decided not to

U.N. forces are indeed largely hunkered down behind sandbags, more than 14 million sandbags in all, stacked at every U.N. position and filled with about 280,000 tonnes of Somalia's most abundant naturai resource.

Therein lies the message. With the cold war over and Somalia's strategic importance in the Horn of Africa diminished, foreigners are less willing to take risks to keep Soma-lis from killing each other for control of vast tracts of sand.

U.N. military sources predict an attack soon on the southern port of Kismayo by irregulars led by Colonel Omar Jess, who is intent on wresting the city from rival warlord Mohammad Siad Hirsi, better known as General Morgan. U.N. diplomats and officials

but peacekeeping troops will no longer intervene. There also are fears of factional warfare.

have sought to cool the feud,

"We will go through a period of hot negotiations in the Somali tradition," said Mr. De Mistura of UNICEF. "There will be disagreements over the details in negotiations. Those disagreements will produce days and weeks of violence."

Nonetheless, Mr. De Mistura sees some reason for optimism. "The bottom line is, Somalia is not ever likely to become Switzerland, so we have to accept different criteria for assessing it," he said.
...Mr. De Mistura and other

foreign officials in Mogadishu say they believe faction leaders who insist they do not want resumption of the civil war that produced Somalia's famine and killed 350,000 people. The trick, they say, is how to contain local battles.

Transcripts said to show how Mubarak plot was worked out

NEW YORK (AP) — A plot to assassinate Egypt's president was in the works until the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was tipped off, according to transcripts of a government informant's con-

Siddig Ibrahim Siddig Ali. the alleged mastermind of a plot to bomb New York city landmarks, discussed the plans at length with Emad Salem. according to transcripts of the conversations. Mr. Salem is an informant who secretly recorded the discussions as he worked with the FBI. The men spoke frequently of

Egypt's president, Hosni Mubarak, during conversations contained in transcripts seen by the Associated Press. They referred to him as the "laughing cow," an apparent reference to an expression he

made in a photograph. Mr. Siddig Ali told Mr. Salem there were three potential plans to assassinate Mr. Mubarak last April during a visit to New York, according to the transcripts. In one, two men would shoot at the same time from different locations as Mr. Mubarak walked out a door of an unspecified loca-

In the second scenario, a team of 10 men would overpower kitchen staff and security officers at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel and don room service uniforms.

"We'll go in with the presi-dent's order himself and his staff, we'll use guards, we'll deal with the reality as it is and the shooting will be merciless." Mr. Siddig Ali is quoted as saving. "No mercy; all the same, they will be all gone. It's going to be a suicidal opera-

In the third scenario, the men would overtake a United Parcel Service truck and park it a block from the Waldorf. As the president arrived in a motorcade and stepped out of his car, "three will be shooting and throwing grenades, two will be covering them from the back." Mr. Siddig Ali_is

quoted as saying.
"It is a suicidal operation because the street will be covered with police," he said.



"We discussed recognising

that the Jewish community is in

agony because of the death of

this young student," said M.T.

Mehdi, president of the Amer-

ican-Arab Relations Com-

and the pain of the Palestinian

parents of those who were kil-

led in the mosque. ...Only

when we share our pain can we

Mr. Dear, a Brooklyn

Democrat who represents

several neighbourhoods with

heavy concentrations of ortho-

dox Jews, said those present

agreed to condemn all forms of

past, but for the future, how

we can live together, and work

together, and maybe calm

down some of the tension that

About 20 people attended

the meeting in the basement of

the 70th Precinct stationhouse.

Not all, however, were

Ali Awwad, president of

Arab-Americans of Brooklyn,

said there was still a lot of work

left to be done. "Unfortunate-ly we haven't reached the point

in labeling Kahane Chai as a

terrorist organisation, but

that's our main goal," he said.

is there," he said.

appeased.

"The focus was not on the

reach an understanding."

"We also spoke of the agony

BETHLEHEM PROTESTS: An Israeli soldier fires tear-gas while his comrades advance inside Bethlehem University's compound during heavy

Monday. The occupation authorities ordered the university closed antil further notice (AFP.)

Jewish, Muslim leaders discuss New York tensions

NEW YORK (AP) -- Working to establish calm despite increased tensions, leaders of the city's Jewish and Muslim communities met in Brooklyn to condemn terrorism and share concerns.

"We are here side by side. Let's continue living side by side," city councilman Noach Dear said at a Sunday news conference following the

Mr. Dear said he asked for the meeting instead of a pending Muslim demonstration. He said Muslim groups planned to demonstrate at the Brooklyn offices of Kahane Chai, an organisation founded in the memory of the extremist Zionist Rabbi Meir Kahane. Dr. Baruch Goldstein, a

Brooklyn-born Israeli settler, killed 60 Muslims last month as they prayed at a mosque in the occupied West Bank. Goldstein was a follower of Kahane. Kahane Chai praised his act.

Adding to tensions, Rashad Baz, a Lebanese resident of New York, has been charged with shooting four teenage Yeshiva students on the Brooklyn Bridge last week. killing one and injuring three others. One of them, Aaron Halberstam, 16, died Saturday. He was buried Sunday.

Lebanese Christian leaders urge Pope to defer trip

BEIRUT (R) — A prominent Christian leader urged Pope John Paul on Monday to postpone his visit to Lebanon in the wake of recent bomb attacks on, Christians and a former president warned the visit could spark more violence.

The statements by Raymond Edde, a self-exiled Maronite Christian leader, and ex-President Charles Helou follow expressions of doubt about the visit by General Michel Aoun, another Maronite leader and former Lebanese army commander exiled in France.

Mr. Edde said in a statement published in Beirut newspapers the Pope's visit planned for May should be delayed "because of the current circumst-

ances" in Lebanon.

Postponement was "in the interest of the Vatican and in the interest of Christians in the Orient," said Mr. Edde, who lives in Paris.

He was speaking a week after a bomb killed 9 worship pers and wounded 60 at a: Maronite church near Beirut. Christian religious leaders have expressed indignation that authorities have reported no progress in the hunt for the bombers.

Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano said on Friday the pontiff would go ahead with the visit despite the bombing.

Fomer President Helou, in a frontpage commentary in the French-language Beirut daily L'Orient le Jour, expressed fears the Pope's visit could lead to an explosion of violence.

He said the failure of the authorities to arrest those responsible for recent bombings against Christian targets showed that peace has not yet been established or stabilised in Lebanon.

"It is not us who oppose the very beautiful and courageous initiative which has been announced," Mr. Helou

"But we say in advance, despite all the precautions that will be taken at the official level and in the popular arena, that no one should reproach us in the world, and above all in Europe, for the violence or the disorder which can explode when we receive the Pope."

L'Orient said Lebanese troops tightened security around churches across the country on Sunday in the wake of the Feb. 27 church bombing.

front of U.S. missions in Medan and Jakarta, was also aimed at urging the United States to adopt a more responsible policy on Muslims. Newspapers on Monday reported that about 2,000 Muslims also held an emotional gathering in front of a Jakarta mosque on Friday to denounce the United States and

CIA finds trouble regaining missiles

Israel for the massacre.

WASHINGTON (R) — A secret programme to buy back U.S. portable Stringer missiles sent to Afghanistan rebels to fight Soviet forces during the 1980s has been plagued by failures, the Washington Post reported Monday. It quoted U.S. and Pakistani intelligence officials in a report from Pakistan as saying the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has bought back only a fraction of the estimated 1,000 stinger missiles distributed to rebels then. The missiles can be carried by foot soldiers to shoot down low-flying planes. Congress is reported to have approved more than \$65 million in secret funds for the buyback over the past three years, about twice the original U.S. cost of the missiles, the newspaper said. It quoted the intelligence officials as saying the programme has quadrupled the blackmarket price of the missiles and created a cut-throat business of middlemen seeking high commissions to arrange CIA purchases from Afghan rebels.

King Fahd donates \$5 million to Bosnia

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabian King Fahd has donated \$5 million to Bosnian Muslims. The Saudi Press Agency reported. It said the donation, part of a campaign by the Saudi-owned London-based Middle East Broadcasting Centre (MBC) television, was to help "alleviate suffering of children in Bosnia-Herzegovina." King Fahd had made several other donations to Bosnian Muslims and Saudi Arabia's public and private aid to fellow Muslims in Bosnia over the past year is estimated at more than \$150 million.

Landslide crushes 6 girls in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Six girls, three of them sisters, were crushed by a huge limestone boulder that fell on them as they dug for clay beneath it, authorities said Sunday. The Girls, aged 4-17, were collecting a kind of clay used for making house paint in rural parts of southern Egypt. Civil defence rescuers worked for five hours Saturday before they could excavate the bodies from the rubble in Rayayna village near Sohag, an industrial centre 385 kilometres south of Cairo. The sisters were aged four, five, and 17. Their three friends were six, 14 and 15. Last December, more than 35 people died in an avalanche in a poor Cairo neighbourhood.

2 held in Turkey for wounding journalist

ISTANBUL (R) - Police on Suaday arrested two men on charges of shooting and wounding a prominent sports writer and social commentator, Anatolian news agency said. Hincal Uluc, a journalist with the Sabah newspaper, was shot in the leg as he left his Istanbul home on Friday. Quoting police officials, Anatolia identified the attackers as Ibrahim Turk and sarboros Gokalan. Police said the men Ankara and brought to Istanbul.

Kurds jailed after 4-year German trial

DUESSELDORF (R) - Two members of Turkey's militant Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were jailed for life in Germany on Monday after a trial lasting over four years. Two other members of the group, which has waged a guerrilla war against Ankara since 1984, received stiff sentences. A court in Duesseldorf found Ali Aktas, 32, and Hasan Guler, 40, guilty of murder and attempted murder on charges linked to the deaths of two Kurds in Lebanon and others in the German cities of Hanover and Berlin in the 1980s. Selahattin Erdem. 36, was jailed for six years for membership of a terrorist group while Ali Haydar Kaytan, 41, got seven years on the same charge and for unlawful imprisonment. Federal prosecutors had described Mr. Kaytan, arrested in 1988, as one of the most powerful leaders of the separatist PKK.

France and Israel to sign defence deal

PARIS (R) - France and Israel will sign an unprecedented agreement on military technology research and development this week during a visit by Defence Minister Francois Leotard, officials from both countries said on Monday. The accord, setting a framework for defence cooperation for the first time since President Charles de Gaulle imposed an arms embargo after the 1967 Middle East war, will be signed on Thursday. during Mr. Leotard's three-day trip beginning on Wednesday. "It will allow the development of relations between state bodies involved in defence research. It will provide the framework for exchanges of information on specified subjects of common interest," a French official said. The official told Reuters cooperation would take place in eight areas but none would be identified publicly. An Israeli official said the agreement would "remove the last barrier to the redevelopment of close relations between the two countries."

Egyptian Islamists 'ready for enemies of Islam'

By Samia Nakhoul Reuter

CAIRO — The group bent on destroying the Egyptian government and installing a strict Islamic state has emerged from its shadowy past, using the Hebron mosque massacre as a chance to vent its anger more openly. "Islam has enemies, and of

course the people of Islam will not stand idle. They must be prepared for them and fight them back," this is how the militant Gamaa Al Islamiyah summarises its crusade against the Egyptian government and Western powers.

In their eyes, the rulers of Egypt are "corrupt infidels who do not rule by God's revelations" and deserve to die. The United States and its ally, Israel, are plotting to destroy Islam.

Gamaa is coming out in the open and challenging the government by stepping up its raids on tourists, calling for street protests and asking foreigners to leave.

Virtually every day since a Jewish settler shot dead about 60 Palestinians praying in a mosque in the West Bank town of Hebron on Feb. 25. Islamic groups including the Gamaa have been especially vocal, vowing to avenge the "martyrs of Islam."

Diplomats say the militants have one hundred grievances for which they take revenge for the Hebron massacre by attacking Americans and Israelis in Egypt, or for conviction of Gamaa follower Mahmoud Abu Halima by a U.S. court, or for the execution of 30 of their comrades by military courts in Egypt.

"The repercussions of the Hebron massacre are much more dangerous than the arrest of Abu Halima because it touches off the feelings and beliefs of Muslims. There must be some kind of revenge," one militant lawyer predicted.

Mahmoud Abu Halima is one of four men convicted in New York on Friday for bombing New York's World Trade Centre on Feb. 26 last year. Mr. Abu Halima and the three co-defendants could be handed life jail terms when they are sentenced in May for the attack that killed six people and injured more than 1.000.

"If the building there was housing ideas to fight the Muslims and Islamists it is natural to have an operation against it. Islam has enemies and the people of Islam will not stand idle, they should fight back," a Gamaa preacher said.

In New York, Mr. Abu Halima was the driver and personal assistant to Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the blind spiritual leader of the Gamaa, Sheikh Abdul Rahman is being held in a federal prison on charges that he guided a conspiracy that plotted to blow up the United Nations and kill President Hosni Mubarak.

The Gamaa, grabbing the limelight of the Hebron massacre as a chance to vent its anger against a government tied to Israel by the 1979 peace treaty, incited street protests in Cairo.

As a result, tension is high in the streets and riot police are on the move ready with tear-gas, batons and shotgun pellets to disperse protesters. "The peace accord with

those Jews must be abrogated. The Jews are hypocrites," one militant preacher at a mosque in the poor area of Imbaba said. "If they (Islamic groups)

deciare holy war on the basis of fighting these (Egyptian government, Americans and Israelis) the militants have the ability to fight even with stones and die.'

The militant lawyer said: "There will be revenge but no one can predict what form the revenge operations will take. "There is a lot of unease in

the air. Something is stewing underground. The Hebron massacre has definitely given the militants an impetus to do something. They are inspired by it," one western diplomat

"The militant warnings are worrisome," he added. "There are certain trends streets and take advantage of these protests to stir a confrontation with the police that will turn into a battle," Information Minister Safwat Sharif told Rose Al Yousef Over the past month, the

Gamaa has emerged from its

shadowy and underground

world to openly confront the government, which has repeatedly played down the role of its militants, saying they were a bunch of mercenaries that could be easily uprooted. The Gamaa has issued 21 statements over the past month claiming responsibility

for the killing of policemen and the planting of bombs in front of banks which pay It launched five attacks in one month on foreign tourists travelling on Nile cruises and on trains, compared with 11 attacks since its campaign be-

On Friday, gunmen seriously wounded a German woman in southern Egypt when they shot at a Nile

gan in October 1992.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

7-70	RAMME TWO Envoy Special Magazin
19:89	News in Frenc
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21:30	The Respected Fumiliary in English
22:20 23:50	The Cape Rebo
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CHURCHES St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifleh, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785. St. Joseph Church Tcl. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tcl. 637440. De la Salle Church Tel. (61757

Terrasancia Church Tel: 622366 623541. Anglican Church Tel. 63/861, Tel. 628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tcl. 771331. an Orthodox Church Tcl. St. Ephraim Church Tcl. 771751. Amunan International Church Tel. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328. German-speaking Congregation Tel. 684195 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Tel. 811295. **WEATHER**

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Temperatures tend to rise slightly with winds becoming northwesterly light to moderate. In Aquha, winds will be northerly moderate and seas

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 8. Aqaba 20, Humidity readings: Amman 93 per cent. Aqaba 36 per **USEFUL TELEPHONE** NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** AMMAN: Dr. Mukhles Hulasa The Evangelical Local Church In Dr. Isam Al Asmar Ferdows pharmacy Al Asema pharmacy Nairoukh pharmacy 6.367 Al Salam pharmacy Yacouh pharmacy hmeisani pharmacy 637664 Nairouih pharmacy 623672 Najih pharmacy Dr. Ahmad Oanu Alguds pharmacy (—)

Dr Zivad J'aitem

Jordan Valley

EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue..... Fire Brigade...... 891228 Blood Bank Highway Police 843402 Public Security Department 630321 Hotel Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage . KY7467 Complaints..... Amman Municipality 787111 Complaints..... Telephone Information (directory assistance) 010230 Abdalt Telephone Repairs 623101 623101 773111 Radio Jordan Water Authority Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615 636381 Сотралу

RJ Flight Information 08-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport...... 08-53200 HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ... 644281/6 Akilch Maternity, J. Amn.... 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital University Hospital ... Al-Muasher Hospital The Islamic, Abdali 845845 667227/9 666127/37 891611/15 Amal Hospital ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital .. (09)900560 (UV)986732 Ibn Sina Hospital Al Hikma Modern Hospital IRBID: (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital Ibn Al Nafces Hospital ... (02)272275 AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital . (03)314111

Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 03:55 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 07:35 Damascus (RJ) 07:45 Dhabran (RJ) 09:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:25 Aqaba (RJ) 09:50 Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 17:39 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2)

..... Bucharest (RO) FOR THE TRAVELLER 01:15 ... Amsterdam, Damascus (KL) **QUEEN ALIA DEPARTURES** INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information depart-ment at the Queen Alia International

Frankfurt (R.I)

...... Rome (AZ) ... Beirut (ME)

..... Amsterdam, New York (RI)
..... Vienna, Frankfurt (RI)
....... Montreal, Toronto (RI) Geneva, Madrid (RJ)Jeddah (add) (RJ) ... Cairo (RJ) Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2) . Aden (1) Amsterdam (KL) HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday Arr. Demages 5:00 p.m. every Monday

MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. 620 Cabbage ' *Cauliflower 220/ 150 Clementine Cucumbers (large) Cucumbers (small) 850/ 65n Marrow (large) Marrow (small) 150 / 100 Olives (green) 700/50n 350 / 300 850/650 Pepper (bot) .. 460 / 400 --- 290/ 190 270/ 180 170 / 100

..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

هلذا مند الأصل





AN IFTAR FOR THE EXCELLING: His Majesty King Hussein Monday hosts an iftar in honour of excelling students from Jordanian universities as well as the winners of the State Merit Awards. The iftar, held at Basman Palace, was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's advisors, Chief Chamberlain Prince

Ra'd Ben Zeid, Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Navef, His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Deputy Prime Minister and Higher Education Minister Saced Al Tal and Culture Minister Amin Mahmoud. The King and the guests performed Al Maghreb prayers together (Petra

Ministry investigates drug safety after reports of fatal side effects

By Jennifer Hamarneh Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN --- The Ministry of Health is investigating the validity of reports in the foreign media that an antibiotic compound used to treat urinary tract infections and bronchitis may have caused the death of hundreds who took the drug over a long period of time, Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Maihas said Monday.

The brand names for the drug in question are Septrin, made by Britain's Wellcome Foundation, and Bactrim, made by the Swiss-based pharmaceutical company, Hoffman La Roche.

Septrin and Bactrim have been used in Jordan for many years for the successful treat. ment of various infections, said Dr. Malhas. But reports that the drug has serioffs and even fatal side effects warrant immediate investigation, added the minister.

He said the ministry has contacted the World Health Organisation (WHO), the health attathe at the Jordanian Embassy in London, as well as the National Scientific Committee and the Scientific Committee of Internists. which is a branch of the Jordan Medical Association. to provide all relevant information concerning the The Sunday Times of London reported on Feb. 27 that *research — largely ignored by the medical profession shows that one of the product's ingredients was unnecessary for it to be effective in most cases. It is this element which is held responsi-

ble for the most serious side

effects, such as fatal blood

reactions. The British weekly said that "problems have stemmed from the fact that the drug is composed of two rival antibacterials," put together by Wellcome and Hoffman-La Roche in the 1960s.

According to the report, the Wellcome drug, called trimethoprim, is relatively safe and effective, while sulphamethoxazole; from Roche, poses significant

A Jordanian professor of pharmacy, who preferred anonymity, told the Jordan Times that the antibiotic is taken by a large number of people in Jordan. He added that the drug is also prescribed for children as it is available in suspension (liquid) as well as tablet forms.

The professor said that about one year ago, Dar Al Dawa (DAD) started manufacturing trimethoprim alone and selling it under the brand name Trimidar. The com-

pany also exports the drug, he said. He added that DAD also manufactures the compound antibiotic.

According to the professor, Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company (APM), a Jordanian firm, manufactures, sells locally and exports the compound form of the antibiotic containing the controversial sulphamethoxazole, as does the Jordan Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company (JPM).

The professor concurs with the Ministry of Health that scientific evidence of side effects must be proved before determining whether the drug should be banned. He said if the compound antibiotic begins to be lifted from markets in Europe, then the same measures will have to apply to Jordan:

The Sunday Times said that although Septrin and Bactrim are still widely prescribed. ~especially in Ge veloping countries." some experts see the mounting evidence of negative side effects as alarming.

If investigations confirm that Septrin and Bactrim have caused fatal or major side effects, the drug will be immediately banned from usage and import in Jordan, said Dr. Malhas.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cáble to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on Syria's national day. King Hussein wished Mr. Assad good health and happiness and the Syrian people arther progress and

Majali meets with writers' federation head

AMMAN (Petra) - Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday received at the prime ministry Jordanian Writer's Federation President Dia'eddin Al Rifa'i and the new administrative board of the federation. Discussion at the meeting focused on the federation's ambitions and plans and its role in serving the cultural movements at the local and Arab levels. Dr. Majali voiced appreciation of the federation's role in promoting cultural movement in Jordan. The meeting was attended by Minister of State Fawwaz Abul Ghanam.

Minister receives new Korean envoy

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister of State for

Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Monday received at the foreign ministry newly-appointed South Korean ambassador to Jordan Oh Chung-II who presented his credentials to Mr. Hassan. Mr. Oh succeeds Hahn-Choon Lee who ended his tour of duty in Jordan last

High wheat consumption recorded

AMMAN (Petra) — Recent sharp increases in the country's wheat consumption are the result of population growth and waste, according to a statistical bulletin issued Monday by the Ministry of Supply. In 1988, Jordan consumed an estimated 416,000 tonnes of wheat, the bulletin said, but in 1993, the nation consumed 627,000. The bulletin said the availability of subsidised bread has prompted some people to use the staple as animal feed. According to the bulletin. in 1993 wheat consumption was 97.047 tonnes higher than in 1992; a clear indicator, said the bulletin, that bread is being wasted. The bulletin said Jordan last year purchased 672.860 tonnes of wheat, up from 602.910 tonnes in 1992, noting that most of the wheat was imported and cost the country significantly in hard currency.

Government plans no across-the-board pay raise for civil servants — Gammoh

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The government is not considering any plans for an across-the-board pay raise for civil servants and is not aware of reports that Parliament members and senior government officials were poised to get a substantial hike in allowances and salaries, Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh said Monday.

Mr. Gammoh categorically denied reports in the local press that the government was studying a pay increase similar to that it offered to civil servants last year.

"There is no plan for any such raise," Mr. Gammoh told the Jordan Times, describing the reports as unfounded.

The minister said he was not aware of a purported recommendation of a government committee studying the issue that the allowances for members of Parliament and senior government officials

"I have not seen the report of the committee," he said. "As far as I know, there are no such plans until now." Another member of the Cabinet said: "We really don't know where such re-

ports come from. The committee (studying civil servants' salaries) has not completed its work and the government is not yet privy to its recommendations, if indeed there are any along the lines suggested in the reports."

According to the reports, members of Parliament will get an increase of JD400. making their monthly allowance JD1.000, and senior officials of the rank of secretary-generals of ministries, including heads of government departments, will get a monthly increase of JD300.

JD22 for all categories of government servants and public sector employees was being considered as the prop-While denying the report. Mr. Gammoh, however.

The reports suggested that

an across-the-board raise of

affirmed that the government-appointed committee was considering an efficiency-briented incentive programme for civil servants.

We have been studying

such a plan for some time Mr. Gammoh said. This would only involve those civil servants who prove their efficiency and productivity.

· According to the minister.



it will be unproductive to offer a uniform salary raise to the public sector since it would discourage "productive and efficient employees" when they find "everyone getting the same raise regardless of their standard of work and productivity."

"We, as a government. have a duty towards encouraging them to continue their productive and efficient work and set a model for others," Mr. Gammoh said.

Mr. Gammoh declined to give details of the efficiencyoriented pay raises, pointing out that the committee had not completed its work. Other officials said the

orientation was towards civil servants who have proven records of efficiency as well as those who work in rural areas where the relative luxuries and better living conditions

In many cases, the officials noted, many civil servants asked to move out of Amman plead against the transfer citing family obligations, health services, schooling of children etc.

"Everyone has one excuse or another, making it very difficult for department heads to handle such cases." said an official. "If no one wants to go and serve in the outlying regions, how are we going to offer services to residents there?

"We have to encourage people to drop their reluctance to leave Amman and other major towns and take up posts in the rural regions." said the official. "An extra allowance might help many to make up their minds and accept postings there, and this is part of the incentives programme that the government is considering.

In 1993, the government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker offered a uniform JD15-JD20 pay raise to all civil servants and security personnel, including the Armed Forces. The total number of civil servants is

estimated at around 400,000. The raise offered in 1993 increased government spend-ing by JO70 million for the

It was the first such raise: for more than seven years. Under the economic restructuring programme agreed, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government had Gozen all.

wage hikes. An international consul-. ... tant who works closely with the World Bank and the IMF said the interne onal watchdogs did not h: 2 any prob-. lem with the government approach to civil servant salaries as long as it achieves. the targets outlied in the

restructuring or amme. "The govern nt had all the leeway in its -riorities of expenditures as ong as the orientation rem ns towards not breaching tl.: limits (on spending) and follows a. course towards efficiency. said the consult nt.

"After all, it is the country and its people who benefit. from improved performance of all sectors, and this in turn makes it much easier for the IMF and the World Bank to -: deal with the government and its external obligations." added the consultant, who preferred anonymity.

Building starts drop because of fee increases — HUDD official

AMMAN (Petra) — The drop in construction starts in the Kingdom has been attributed to the increased cost of various fees imposed on building pro-

jects during 1993.

Director General of the Housing and Urban Developthat in 1993 the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) issued licences for 14,285 projects to construct a total of 3.07 million square metres of buildthe total area built in 1992.

ment Department (HUDD) Yousef Hiyasat Monday said ings, which was 47 per cent of Mr. Hiyasat said many con-

He said the last months of 1993 registered a 40 per cent

tractors and private citizens obtained building licences during 1992 after learning that the fees would rise sharply in 1993. Also, in the last two months

of 1993 there was a near halt in the construction business in Jordan because speculation about an imminent settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict was widespread at the time, said Mr. Hivasat.

drop in construction operations compared with the same

Private universities barred from advertising

AMMAN (Petra) — Private universities, which came under fire Monday for neglecting some academic standards, will be barred from advertising in the media to attract student applications. Minister of Higher Education Saeed Al Tal Monday said that some private universities have been lax in abiding by regulations involving the assessment of students' academic performance and criticised those universities. which, he said, resort to commercial advertising in order to attract undergraduates.

Addressing a meeting in his office of presidents of private

universities. Dr. Tal said universities are the highest educational institutions in the country and any shirking of responsibility would be considered an academic and national crime.

There is no room for students who fail to live up to the academic standards required by the university board, and such students definitely do not deserve to obtain university degrees, he said.

Dr. Tal stressed that as some of the finest institutions in the country, private universities should refrain from advertising since this is not in line with academic norms. He said the

ministry was circulating instructions barring all universities from advertising in the media in order to attract more

Promising the ministry's support of private universities academic endeavours, thé minister urged the presidents to coordinate their educational programmes to benefit the entire higher education system in the country.

He suggested that university boards temporarily freeze staff promotions until a set of regulations by the Council of

Mideast peace process bursts on stage in Jordan

AMMAN - It's showtime in Jordan, where once-taboo politics have burst on stage in an unflattering and rib-tickling look at the state of Middle East peace talks. "Clinton," "Rabin", "Arafat," and "King Hussein" are among the characters in a one-hour satire reflecting popular scepticism about what is depicted as negotiations between a strong Israel

and weak Arabs. U.S. President Bill Clinton. draped in the stars and stripes, dances onto the stage as a chorus of men ridicule the new U.S.-shaped world order emerging from the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat, once sworn enemies, hazgle over terms for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Rabin tells Arafat that Israel will let him hoist a five-by-five centimetre Palestinian flag at a border post linking Jordan and Jericho --- famed for its bananas — if he accepts a five square kilometre Jericho.

An astonished Arafat shouts: "You want me to have self-rule on a banana factory waving a bikini as a flag? And if I sleep there, my head will be in Jordan and my feet will be in

The satire "Ahlan (welcome) Peace" is being staged at the Regency Palace Hotel for Amman's glitterati. It's a sell-out each night and audiences, including senior officials, diplomats and intelli-

gence men, roll in their seats at the jokes.

The staging of the play and the effort to end decades of Arab-Israeli conflict — reflect a changing Middle East. The political satire is the fourth by Nabil Sawaiha since Jordan began easing censorship of the media and arts four years ago. He appears as an actor along with co-writer Hisham Yanis.

"We are talking about peace in the sense that we support it," Sawalha says. But he adds: We are a bit sceptical about what is happening."
The mood captured by the two popular television come-

dians reflects the uncertainty

raised by an Israeli-PLO selfrule deal and the failure of more than two years of Arab-Israeli talks to produce any major results. The art reflects the reality -the gloom surrounding what is

seen as uncompromising Israeli positions forced on Arabs with U.S. pressure, tilting the balance toward opponents of In one scene, radical Palesti-

nians slam moderate Palestine Liberation Organisation leaders for selling out their people. In another, Arafat and Rabin discuss Palestinian selfrule arrangements for the Gaza Strip and Jericho that were supposed to emerge from the accord signed last September. "I know why you want bor-

ders. You want to make a Palestinian state," says Rabin. Arafat, in traditional green military fatigues and chequered headdress, replies: "So what Rabin. What are you afraid of? We do not have water, or chemicals, or atomic



Nabil Sawalha (left) and Hisham Yanis in a scene from "Ahlan Peace" playing at the Regency Hotel in Amman

bombs, or sewage and telephones, we even do not have water to wash with.

A jittery Rabin says: "But you have a more serious atomic bomb ... the Palestinian breeding bomb ... Palestinians will keep breeding and Israel will eventually be lost in Palestine's nursery."

The play also ventures into potentially divisive territory relations between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Jordan, where Palestinians are about half of the nearly four million population. Jordanian-PLO ties were

frostly after the self-rule deal with Israel was reached in secret talks without consulting Jordan. It raised doubts about future Jordanian economic and political links with the West Bank, which it ruled until lost to Israel in the 1967 Middle East war. In a satirical telephone con-

versation, Arafat, known for never committing himself, asks King Hussein about a future confederation between Jordan and Palestine. The King, who believes the

idea must wait until Palestinians can determine their future, cuts him off: "But you are still wearing a diaper.' Arafat laughingly says "but we are dry now.

The play opens with a fight between Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam in the biblical story of creation shared by Christians, Jews and Muslims,

"We want to show that man's destiny lies in his silliness or wisdom, in his magnanimity or his pettiness." Sawalha said. "This is ve. /. relevant to peace and to the Arab-Israeli struggle between people who are of the same

He said: "Peace is the theme. now prevalent in our lives and people expect us to reflect their feelings, we decided to tackle it despite its slightly. undefined dimensions."

Settler families quit Kiryat Arba

(Continued from page 1)

in Kiryat Arba," he said. "They said they'd prefer to live in the streets of Jerusalem than return to Kiryat Arba."

he said. On Monday, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, issued leaflets warning that Kirvat Arba and four other settlements are not dismantled by March 15, the Israeli residents will not "enjoy the luxury of sleep in their homes or a feeling of safety on the road."

"We have chosen our targets and our living martyrs have been instructed to carry out the suicide operations," it said.

The leaflet, issued by Hamas' armed wing. Izzedine

Al Qassam, threatened retaliation for the Feb. 25 massacre. Hamas has decided on a five-stage revenge plan, "and

each stage will make the Israeli people and the settlers cry in blood for their dead," the leaflet said. Israel's army chief of staff. Ehud Barak, said last week that warnings had been re-

ceived about possible reprisal

actions by Palestinian mili-

Hamas named five settlements and said its residents would be singled out for attacks if they did not leave their homes by March 15. The settlements were Kiryat Arba as well as Gush Katif, Kedumim. Tekoa and Ariel.

The following Fatings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Araoic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

☆ "Installation" inspired by Azraq by artist Andreja Kuluncic at Darat Al Funan of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jahel Luweibdeh (7:00 p.m-9:00 p.m.). Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 54 contemporary Arab artists (Tel.

- * Art exhibition by artists Widad Al Orfali and Abdul Hussein Twaii at the Orfali Art Gallery in Um Uthaina (Tel. 826932).
- * Art exhibition by artist Ghassan Ayasrah at the Royal Cultural
- * Exhibition by artist Shaker Al Girmi entitled "Studies in the Jordanian Environment" at the Phoenix Art Gallery for Art

* Plastic art exhibition by several artists at the Royal Cultural

Gallery (8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.).

*Exhibition of Jordanian products at the Royal Cultural Centre.

WHAT'S GOING ON

* Exhibition of works of art by the Arab Centre for Vocational Training at the Royal Cultural Centre.

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Julal Ariquet at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00) a.m.-8:00 p.m. except Fridays). * Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Fadel Mahmond at the Alia Art
- * Exhibition of medical herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre. ☆ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-
- (7:00 p.m.-midnight).

★ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.

MUSICÀL PERFORMANCE

Musical performance by the students of Amman National School at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

ABC WEEKLY NEWS

ABC Weekly News Highlights and the MacNeil-Lehre: News

POETRY RECITAL

Arab Forum at 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Peace going other way

IT IS hard to figure out exactly why Israeli Prime M inister Yitzhak Rabin is seeking to lure the anti- rab Tsomet Party to join his coalition government, especially at this critical time when the peace process can easily collapse at the hazds of extremists. Former General Rafael Eitan, the leader of this predominantly racist group, is well-known for his hardline position on the peace process and his strong opposition to reining in Israeli settlers including those who man the Jewish enclave in the heart of Hebron. the scene of the Friday massacre that took the lives of sixty or more Palestinian worshippers. The deliberate playing of the Tsomet card at this very juncture casts serious doubt on the real intentions of Rabin who, Israeli observers say, might just be wooing back the religious Shas Party by trying to appease Eitan.

The prime minister's decision Sunday to defer vote on the proposal to remove Jewish settlers from Hebron in spite of the fact that the majority of his cabinet team support it raises questions about his sincerity and will to move forward on the peace front. Israel Radio said Sunday that only two of the cabinet's 16 ministers are against the proposal. Rabin had his chance to deal effectively with the timebomb created by the Israeli settlement programme, especially the kind that was placed in the middle of Hebron, but ended up doing nothing about it. By refusing to act and then calling on an extremist political faction to join his government, he is sending clear signals to the Arab side that he does not intend to address the main obstacle to resuming peace talks.

These policy attitudes lead to one conclusion: Rabin is not willing to take political risks for peace, even when that risk is small. By agreeing to discuss the settlement problem under the Oslo accord three years after-the implementation of the "Gaza and Jericho first," it would seem more probable than not that this agreement is only tactical, intended by Rabin to go on procrastinating forever without an end in sight. No wonder then that the Palestinian side insists on moving forward the negotiations on this very basic issue and treat it as a high priority superseding all other items on the peace agenda. In retrospect, the Al Ibrahimi massacre only exploded a simmering problem and brought to the attention of all sides that it is overdue to deal with it.

True Baruch Goldstein, that lowly killer of Palestinians, intended to shoot down the entire peace process as well. But it is Rabin who should assume the main responsibility for frustrating the evil aims and designs of extremist Jews. He should do that by first excluding the likes of Eitan from his government and then by cracking down on all settlers who stand in the way of real peace. Progress cannot be made under any other circumstances or in any other way.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A ... 'MNIST in Al Ra'i daily demanded that the governm at the effective steps to ensure an end to U.S. harassment of international shipping in the Gulf of Aqaba. Tareq Masarweh said that Jordanian officials have so far met several times with senior American administration officials, including the U.S. Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, to discuss this question and the adverse effects on the Jordanian economy of turning away Agaba-bound vessels and discharging cargo bound for Jordanian merchants at neighbouring Arab ports. Nothing has been done to end this violation of Jordanian sovereignty, said the writer. We have halted the talks with Israel following the massacre in Hebron in protest against this crime and we can follow a similar course of action and express our protests against the U.S. aggressive policies towards Jordan, said the writer. He said that Jordan ought to submit a complaint to the U.N. Security Council against this American aggression and demand that Washington pay Jordan compensation for its losses as a result of the harassment of vessels bringing in goods to the country, continued the writer. He said that by tightening the siege on Aqaba. Washington is stepping up its pressure on Jordan in order to serve Israel's interests and force the country to succumb to the wishes of the owish state. The writer said that while the United States con, tues to impose the embargo on Aqaba, it has left the ports of Turkey and Iran open for various imports although these two countries are close neighbours of Iraq. He said Jordan ought to be very effective steps at all levels to safeguard it national *erests.

The View from Fourth Circle

By Rami G. Khouri

Making, and vanquishing, history in Yemen

SANA'A — Yemen is a dramatic and moving land that impresses Arab and international visitors for its architecture, its powerful ancient culture, its striking rural villages and terraced mountains, and the fact that most men carry guns and use them. The capital Sana'a is a stunning city at any time of year; during Ramadan the streets and markets remain crowded and bustling until nearly 3:00 a.m. This Ramadan, though, is particularly special, because the political events taking place here related to solidifying the unification of Yemen and are potentially important to the whole Arab World.

Yemen's northern and southern political leaderships signed an agreement for unification and democratisation in 1990, but followed it up with nearly four years of bureaucratic and political stalling. Just over two weeks ago, the two leaderships gathered in Amman and signed the national charter and reconciliation document that was drawn up by a Yemeni dialogue committee, raising fresh hopes that remain hostage to the sporadic armed clashes and more frequent verbal clashes that characterise Yemen these days.

The real significance of what is happening in Yemen, though, is far deeper than the ability of political leaders in the north and south to reconcile and share power. The real story in Yemen is not about power-sharing, but about the criteria of viable nationhood and statehood. Beneath the surface of the shooting, the kidnapping of foreigners, and the angry domestic political rhetoric lies a more dramatic tale of a rich and durable ancient Arab culture that has been badly treated by modern history — but that refuses to lay down and passively accept its indignities. Instead, Yemen searches for a new form of national configuration that works. A similar process is taking place in many other Arab countries, which is why Yemen is so significant for other Arabs.

Yemen is typical of the modern Arab experience in many ways. Ancient Yemeni cultures that flourished during the kingdoms of Saba, Hadramawt,, Qataban, and Ma'in contributed their share to the development of early human civilisation, 3000-4000 years ago. Early Islamic Yemen was also renowned as a centre of learning; the Prophet Mohammad is quoted as saying: "Faith comes from Yemen, divine right comes from Yemen, and from Yemen comes wisdom." Yemen is a land that made history in ancient times; but it declined in medieval times, and fell prey to British and Ottoman colonial rule in the mid-19th century. The British ruled the south, mainly around the port of Aden, for 128 (!) years from 1839, while the Ottomans ruled Sana'a and some adjacent northern regions from 1848 to 1918.

Yemen staggered into the late 20th century, ravaged by the harsh combination of prolonged foreign domination, the partition of a land that was always united by its culture (though not always by political rule), the consequences of an alien Marxist, authoritarian political system in the south, and a loose political system in the north whose authority did not always reach into all corners of the country. Poverty, low education levels, a very high birthrate and lack of basic services in rural areas (where about 80 per cent of the population still lives) all combined to intensity political and economic pressures on the northern and southern states in the 1980s. In 1990, the decision was made to unify and to democratise as the best means to emerge from the crisis.

The unification and democratisation of Yemen in 1990 held out a promise of rationality, progress, and political maturity, after centuries of national distress. The accord was also a sign of past failures and mistakes, a camouflaged but nevertheless poignant confirmation that the very different models of

hair and torn trousers loiter

at the airport. But none I saw

moved onlookers that morn-

ing like this young man begging for his family. Perhaps it

was the image of an entire family that made people

reach into their pockets so

often. Perhaps it was the way

the father hid his eyes.

Perhaps it was his suit, or his wife by his side, the lower

part of her face covered by a

Street beggars are not a

few unlucky individuals.

They are a condition that

pervades Algeria today. The

links in a chain of corruption

and economic deterioration

are all too evident, as one

need only step a few paces

beyond this young family. Nearby, under a tree sit two

cigarette vendors. Contra-

band is sold openly every-

where, distributed through

syndicates. Those vendors, I

am assured, earn a good liv-

ing. Closer to the hotel gate

are two regulars - men who

first identify themselves, in

English, Italian or French, as

taxi drivers but anxiously

offer to sell you Algerian

Across the street from the

black-marketeers and the

family of beggars is a side-

walk cafe — there are many

along Algiers' boulevards.

They might remind one of

Europe except that the young

men who sit at the tables do

not speak to other men idling

there; few of them can afford

even a demitasse of coffee.

None has work, and they

fear lurks not far below the

surface. At the entrance to

The city seems calm but

have nowhere to go.

money cheap.

traditional lace veil.

statehood in the north and south had both failed to achieve progress, stability or national security. The main underlying problem was the same as that which had afflicted most other Arab countries in the 20th century — ignoring local cultural forces, national identity, and social traditions, and instead trying to build modern states on the shaky post-colonial foundation of hastily imported European ideologies and systems. Yemenis recognised these weaknesses, and in 1990 decided to try a different approach. But little has happened in the last four years, because little has been done to address the underlying weaknesses of the two Yemeni models of made-in-Europe modern statehood.

"Yemen's weakness was not only lack of democracy and unity; it was lack of a national configuration and political decision-making structure that made sense in the Yemeni context and that responded to indigenous cultural conditions."

The heartening will to democratise and unify is moving, and has the support of the vast majority of Yemenis. But Yemen's weakness was not only lack of democracy and unity; it was lack of a national configuration and political decision-making structure that made sense in the Yemeni context and that responded to indigenous cultural traditions. The most obvious and impressive reality of Yemen is its tribal character, which means decentralisation of power among about eight or nine major tribes throughout the country. The modern political systems in north and south ignored the cultural/tribal reality, and, instead, Yemenis were asked to accept a system of governance that concentrated military, economic and political power in the hands of small groups of people in the north and south. The system had no chance of working, and it did not

work.

The results are obvious, in historical and contemporary terms. Historically, the 20th century for Yemen, as for most Arab Countries, has been paradoxical and often painful: a century of material progress in many spheres of life, alongside steady increases in our national vulnerability to population-natural resource imbalances, dependence on imported money, food and consumer goods, and, in the 1980s, the mass discontent of indigenous populations who suffered the twin pain of economic pressures and the indignity of not being allowed to participate in political decision-making.

In contemporary terms, as it typical in most of the Arab World, there is a huge gap here between the political leadership and the people at the grassroots level. As the fighting between Yemeni army units recently took place in the southern regions, in the streets of Sana'a the men and women talked about the situation in a peculiarly detached manner, as if they were discussing fighting between army units in Thailand or Argentina. People casually discussed scenarios, rumours, and aspirations: A former president from the south has tried to stage a coup in the north. Hundreds of people have died in the fighting, and anti-aircraft systems are ready for action in Sana'a and Aden. The Americans or the Saudis or the British or Western imperialism or someone equally conspiratorial and

far away wants to recolonise Yemen, to prevent democratisation, and to take control of Yemen's newfound oil reserves. All of this and more is casually spoken in tones no more urgent than those used when speaking of the quality of the latest shipment of coffee; fish or qat.

People need a political solution to the current leadership fend, because the government must function efficiently enough to be able to take urgent measures to stabilise the economy and reduce the cost-of-irving pressures on the average family. Economic pressures, a heavy reliance on imported basic foodstuffs and consumer goods, and the decline in the foreign exchange value of the Yemeni riyal mean that the average Yemeni family finds it inceasingly difficult to maintain, let alone to improve, its standard of living. Occasional and increasingly regular street demonstrations are the most visible consequence of this family-level suffering; behind this, though, is a more serious erosion of the government's ability to manage the economy, combined with an individual instinct in the private sector to maximise one's personal profits without necessarily thinking about the public good. The result, in other words, is a crisis of governance.

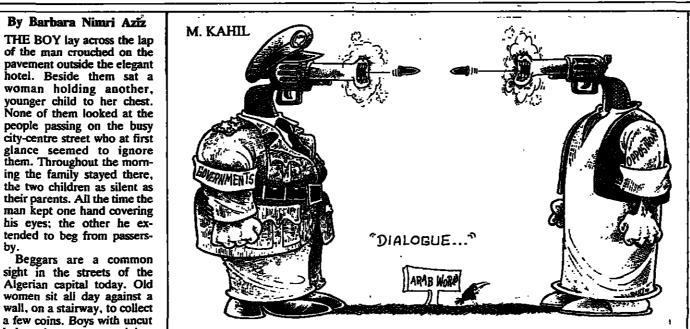
Here is Sana'a, there is hope, but not only because of the obvious will at the grassroots level to make unification and democratisation work. There is hope because the people understand why their old system did not respond to their needs and aspirations, because in Yemen today there is political wisdom. The Yemeni people instinctively know that they need a new political system that corresponds to the real distribution of political and economic resources around the country — which means, once again, decentralisation that is sensitive to tribal realities.

The new national charter and reconciliation document that was signed in Amman is important because it accepts this, and because it seeks to create a model of a new Arab political structure that might succeed where previous systems have failed. Its single most important principle is a decentralised system of power that gives most decision-making powers to local and regional assemblies, with the central government concentrating on overall planning, foreign affairs, and national defence, both in its explicit decentralisation and regionalisation of power and its emphasis on participatory democracy, the document aspires to a system of political governance that corresponds to Yemen's ancient culture and to its people's modern quest for a stable form of participatory and account-

able government. Go, Yemen!

Behind the political quarrels and military shootouts between Sana's and Aden, the more important story of what is happening in Yemen is not being adequately told. The International news media focuses on kidnapped foreigners, tribal requests for routings of new roads, and reconciliation attempts by two political leaderships. These are merely the surface manifestations of the deeper challenge in Yemen today: the formulation of a new political culture that could finally overcome the constraints and failures of the past, that could, in fact, vanquish modern history and all its ugliness. There are few places in the Arab World that have the identity, the composure, and the incentive to do this as much as Yemen does. A success in Yemen would be an important breakthrough in the collective quest for a more stable and productive Arab order based on cultural authenticity, political participation, national stability, and, consequently, human dignity. I, for one, will be cheering hard for Yemen to succeed.

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The toll of war

Poverty pervades Algeria after two years of bloody conflict

the hotel courtyard, everyone coming in is subjected to a security check. The guards mumble apologies as they ask visitors to open their bags for inspection. "We have to do this," they explain, "be-cause of the trouble." Even inside the hotel lobby, one can feel the discomfiting eyes of plain-clothes security police. Yet paradoxically even opponents of the regime welcome the presence of such security, out of fear of the Islamist guerrillas who have killed many secular dissidents and whose threats have forced a great many others into hiding. In these few square metres

in these few square metres in the heart of Algiers are all the indicators of the deep problems facing the nation: unemployment, an unchecked black market, political violence. "We don't feel like going out," said a man who once enjoyed taking his family into town for a meal, or to the beach for a day. "It's not the same any more," he volunteers as he sits embarrassed and nervous at a military road block waiting for the armed soldiers to check his

ID. Some sources report that up to 12,000 men are now tres, all of them picked up in military sweeps for "terrorists". No one can say how many of those arrested have been tortured and killed. Algerians fought hard for independence, then for democracy. Only in 1988 did the single ruling party, the FLN, release its grip on the press and allow free expression. .Today Algerians' dreams of liberty seem to have vanished. The state of emergency, directed against the Islamists, is now entering its third year. And there is neither a major government plan to reverse the economic decline, nor a strategy to open dialogue with the Islam-

Since January 1992, when the government suspended the outcome of elections and banned the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which would have come to power, Algeria has been in a state of terror from which no one can see salvation. Foreign aid is promised, but no new elections are planned.

Many Algerians find themselves without a meaningful ideological framework within which to direct their aspirations and growth. The social-

ist FLN, which won independence from France, became inept and corrupt. From the midst of the despair the FIS wins its support. Some say the Islamist guerrillas are unemployed men who will kill for a few dollars but have no Islamic conviction, Others say the Islamists are compassionate and able to convince the poor that they can really help them. The FIS promised solutions, however vague, and it addressed peoples' search for esteem. But no one has given them

a chan: to prove themselves. 'a neir democratic drive ended in them being banned and the imposition of martial law. Their counter is a kind of guerrilla war against the government and police. The brutal repression tactics against them and the imprisonment of their leadership may well have jeopardised any chance of dialogue. More aid is promised to address the nation's economic woes but the father begging for his family has to lift his hand from his face as well. Relevant ideology and a feeling of self-respect are important.

Middle East International

<u>Israel's Arabs</u> Victims of discrimination

By Walid Sadek

The writer, a Meretz member of the Keneset is deputy minister of health. The artists is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

AFTER the events of recent days. I find it difficult to describe my mood. The pain I feel as a human being, as a citizen of Israel, as a member of the government, as an Israeli Arab, cannot be put into words.

mto words.

Ever since the establishement of the state, the Arabs of Israel have aspired to attain full integration into Israeli society. This does not meann assimilation: Israel's Arab citizens are interested in preserving and nurturing their tradition, religion, culture and values as citizens of a democratic state. At the same time, they want to function as citizens equal to their Jewish neighbours in employment, standard of living, education

and of course, opportunity.

It pains me both as an Arab and as a citizen of this country that Israeli society rejects the Arab minority's wish to integrate. This rejection is expressed in various ways, both overt and covert.

One can experience open rejection by the Jewish population in harsh racist remarks or intensely nationalist statements by the extreme right. The government has seldom prevented such discrimination, allowing it to come to the fore in its meager allocation of resources to needy Arab towns and villages.

This trend has created a cycle of deterioration and inferiority vis-a-vis the Jewish community, a low level of education, inadequate infrastructure, little business initiative and very few jobs. The cycle clearly and inevitably generates frustration and alienation. These feelings in turn contriute to even more deterioration.

Discrimination has also moved into a concealed mode. reflected in the general state of mind of Israeli society.

This means the Jewish population not only deprives Israeli Arabs of resources and benefits, but has come to regard them as second-class citizens, a community to which

the accepted codes of Israeli democracy do not apply.

Events of recent days are a good example of these sentiments. Why was the expression of pain by Israeli Arabs — finding its outlet in demonstrations in their towns and villages — immediately regarded as an intifada? Why did protests at the murder of thie brethren lead to an influx of security forces and the brutal dispersal of the demonstrators?

Do Israeli Arabs not have the elementary civil right of passionate demonstration? Is the attitude of the security forces toward Arab demonstrators the same as that displayed toward those dismissed from Israeli Military Industries? Or the Orthodox protecting Shabbat violations? Or those of the right against the government's policy? Or farmers protesting over reduced vegetable prices?

The reaction by the police to Israeli Arab demonstrators was more suited to a Jewish-Arab national confrontation. but a demonstration by Israeli Arabs is not nationalist! Arab citizens have a legitimate right to protest.

The notion that Israeli Arabs are disloyal to the state is what underlies this nationalist interpretation of their demonstrations: only when we grasp that the Arab population is loyal despite its split Israeli-Palestinian personality can the Arabs achieve the democratic experience they yearn for

A shrewd look at today's situation reveals that the nature of Israeli Arabs' social alienation is twofold: on one hand, they have adopted the values and norms of Israeli society; on the other they encounter rejection and discrimination at its hands.

The political alienation is in part a function of the slow-down in the peace process - the top priority for Arab Israeli society, which deeply desires peace with its Palestinian brethren.

Only an understanding of what the Arabs are undergoing as a minority, an understanding of their social aspirations and the difficulties of crystallizing their identity in the face of longstanding discrimination will contribute to the emergence of a more just society.

مِلَدًا منه الأصل

Israel sends proposals

The PLO has insisted that

Jewish settlements in or next to

Arab population centres

should be dismantled. It was

not clear whether that re-

At a cabinet meeting Sun-day, half of Mr. Rabin's 14

ministers backed pulling out

the 400 religious settlers living

in Hebron, who have become

the focus of the emotive settle-

Mr. Rabin blocked a vote on

He opposes dismanding any

of the 144 settlements, where

some 120,000 Jews live along-

side two million Palestinians,

because it could be seen as

Mr. Rabin's coalition only

has a one-vote majority in the

120-member Knesset and he is

leary of making concessions

that could trigger a right-wing

But he is under pressure on Hebron, where officials fear

Settlers' leaders warned that thousands of sympathisers would descend on Hebron to

resist any attempt to remove

extremist Kach movement,

said attacks on Arabs were

He told the Yedioth Ahro-

noth daily: "People could carry

out very grave acts, of the type

Mr. Marzel is on the run

with three other Kach leaders

after the government last week

launched a crackdown on

radical settlers, ordering six

men arrested and 18 others

Former chief Rabbi Shlomo

Goren issued a religious ruling

Sunday that "requires us to

resist it to the death, all of us,

every Jew," if the Hebron set-

the United States, Britain and

Norway, Dr. Shaath said Nor-

way had given orders that

planes be ready to move as

soon as the United Nations

passed a resolution on the

Minister Bjoern Tore Godal.

Earlier on Sunday, Mr. Godal

told a news conference with Dr. Shaath in Oslo only that

Norway would heed any re-

quests once the PLO and Israel

Dr. Shaath said the United

States had indicated it agreed

to an international presence in principle. "They want some time to study the steps and the

form of the proposed presence

and to agree with Israel on the

issue." he added.

bade firing on soldiers.

likely if that happened.

(Baruch) Goldstein did."

Baruch Marzel, leader of the

the Jewish enclave.

the settlers are in danger.

the issue and deferred discus-

sion until next week.

caving into the PLO.

mained a demand.

ments issue.

backlash.

disarmed.

added.

(Continued from page 1)

"Disarming the settlers in Al Khalil (Hebron) is essential. The presence of the settlements in Al Khalil is dangerous. This is why the Israeli government should take quick and effective steps to confront the danger of settlers," Mr. Arafat said.

Israel has rejected the idea of an armed international pre-

The row over the killings has held up the PLO-Israeli negonations on details of the agreement for limited Palestinian self-rule which they signed last

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, said the Security Council has taken a long time to pass a resolution condemning the Hebron attack. He said he hoped it would not be delayed further.

The matter is too dangerous to be treated in an emotional way. It requires wellstudied and well-defined proc-"dures," Mr. Musa added.

Mr. Rabin warned Monday that any delay in reviving peace talks heightens the risk of "crazies" striking again, Mr. Rabin, grappling with the violent aftermath of the Hebron massacre, spoke on Israel

Mr. Rabin stressed that "any delay... plays into the hands of the Palestinian terrorists" seeking revenge for the massacre and "opens possibilities for the crazies or a crazy on the Israeli side" to further damage the peace process.

Israel has offered to speed up implementation of the Sept. 13 peace accord with the PLO.

The withdrawal of Israeli troops "could be implemented in six weeks, instead of four months" as stipulated in the accord. Gad Ben-Ari, Mr. Rabin's spokesman, told the Associated Press.

But Mr. Rabin stressed Monday that he is not prepared to renegotiate the accord.

"If we have to renegotiate an agreement... because of problems one side has over one event or another, there's no eason to continue talks." he

"You have to honour agreements and each side has to keep the commitments it made," he stressed.

Mr. Ben-Ari said there have been telephone and fax contacts over the last few days between Israeli and PLO officials "at various levels and in varions forms.

"The Americans are heavily involved and the Egyptians are trying to help... there are intensive efforts being made and we hope the negotiations will resume in the shortest possible

Mr. Rabin met with Israeli negotiators Sunday to find ways of getting autonomy talks back on track amid reports the PLO was softening its position.

"Even though some PLO officials have sent contradictory messages, there's a will on the Palestinian side to resume the talks," the Haaretz daily quoted Israeli officials as

Israeli-Arab team in Syria

(Continued from page 1)

mians, headed by Mr. Darawshe, had arrived to offer condolences to Mr. Assad. The dispatch made no men-

tion of Mr. Darawshe's profession, or the fact that all members of the group hold Israeli passports.

After a brief rest at the hotel, the group was taken in three buses, escorted by carloads of security officials, on a sightseeing tour of Damascus.

The tour teatured the Monument to the Unknown Soldier, the Omayyad Mosque whose foundation dates to the 8th century, and the tomb of Saladin, who recaptured Jerusalem from Richard the Lionheart in

the 12th century. Syrians shopping in the Hamidivych Bazaar, where the

mosque is located, wondered who the delegation was.

"Maybe it" the Greek foreign minister" said one shopper to his companion, referring to Carolos Papoulias, who left Damascus on Sunday after a two-day visit. Mr. Assad originally turned

down Mr. Darawshe's request to visit. But he reversed his decision after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin cited Mr. Assad's refusal as a sign that Damascus was not serious about the stalled peace talks.

Mr. Assad relented, but insisted that the delegation should not enter on passports issued by Israel, saying this would imply recognition.

Egypt, the only Arab country which has made peace with Israel, supplied the members of the delegation with temporary travel documents.

Palestinian killed in Hebron

(Continued from page 1)

by flying glass. The man fled towards Khan Younis in a car bearing number plates issued to Israelis.

Israeli troops, on high alert for retaliatory attacks since the massacre, conducted wide searches for the man, the radio

In Jerusalem Saturday, Palestinian resistance hero Salim Zerai, who served 23 years in prison, called on the Palestinians in the occupied territories to take up arms against Israel.

The settlers and the occupation don't know any-

thing but the language of bullets," he told a crowd, which later protested for several hours.

The rainswept territories observed a general strike called to mark the Palestinian uprising launched in 1987. In a related development,

the finance ministry set rates for compensating families of victims of the Hebron massacre of Feb. 25, Israel radio said. Each family will receive between 85,000 to 210,000 shekels (\$30,000 to \$60,000) depending on the size of their household.

In movies and politics, Mercouri was a star

By Stephen Weeks

ATHENS — Melina Mercouri, who died on Sunday, delighted in exploiting her role as socialist culture minister and movie star to bring Greece's ancient heritage and modern struggles to the notice of a wider audi-

tions following an operation in

February for hing cancer. She became an international star with her role in "Never on Sunday," a 1960 film that also belped to launch Greece's post-war tourist boom with its image of a sunny, carefree

A tall, natural blonde with green eyes, she was born on Oct. 18, 1925, to a prominent political family dominated by. her grandfather Spyros Mercouris, Athens mayor for 30

She graduated with honours from Athens Drama School and her film career took off in 1955 when she won the Best Actress Award at the Cannes film festival for her role in

varied career, she mixed her role as actress with that of dedicated socialist politician: She was well-known for her ferocious denunciations of the military junta which seized power and ruled Greece from 1967 to 1974.

As socialist culture minister from 1981 to 1989, she emerged as a passionate missionary for Greece's heritage, she took over the ministry again in October 1993 when the socialists returned to pow-

tlers are removed. But he for-PLO negotiator Nabil Sheath said that Britain and Norway were willing to join an unspecified "international presence" to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories. British Museum. After arriving in Cairo to brief Mr. Arafat on his talks in

She also led a failed cam-

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd had said Britain vived in Athens in 1896. "completely agreed... to take Dr. Shaath told reporters he dress and a white-feathered learnt of Norway's position from Norwegian Foreign turban, Greece's national col-

homeland and heritage. If I did not love Greece so much I Reuter would be lazy, egocentric and a

A heavy smoker, she died. aged 68, in New York's Memorial Hospital from complica-

country.

Throughout a long and

Her most widely-publicised campaign was for the return of the Parthenon Marbles, some of ancient Greece's finest classical sculptures. They were stripped from the Parthenon Temple in the 19th century by a British lord and are in the

"A room will always remain. empty in the Acropolis Museum awaiting their return. The marbles belong here," she

paign to promote Greece as host for the 1996 summer Olympics, the centenary of the modern games which were re-Always ready to mix theatrics with her politics, she went on television in a long blue

bid. Ms. Mercouri always projected a strong pride in her

ours, to sing the Olympic

anthem and promote Greece's

coward," she once said. She met American film director Jules Dassin at the Cannes Film Festival and mar-

ried him in 1966. He directed her in "Never on Sunday" and she was nominated for an Oscar for her role as a warmhearted, carefree prostitute. A 1967 Broadway musical

called "Illya Darling," based on "Never on Sunday," earned enthusiastic reviews in New York. She had leading roles in over 70 films and theatrical productions, One New York critic wrote:

"Mercouri has the sunbleached good looks of Ingrid Bergman, the glamour of Lauren Bacall and the passion of Anna Magnani.". Ms. Mercouri's own view,

mixed with her renowned blunt humour, was: "I fell in love with the camera and I think the camera fell in love with me but I still think my mouth is too her films and songs were banned by the 1967-74 junta

and a warrant was issued for her arrest. Her speeches and demonstrations around the world against the junta cost Ms. Mercouri her citizenship, restored only after the dictatorship fell. It was during this period that she allied herself with the

Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) of fellow exile Andreas Papandreou. Ms. Mercouri often dispaired at the lack of concern

shown by fellow socialist ministers over the importance of Greece's cultural heritage. "There were very few people in PASOK who could listen to me for more than 10 minutes," she once said. "I used to tell them: Give me the

money you spent on a fighter plane and I'll build an opera house, they didn't under-stand." Ms. Mercouri bought her first house in 1986, on the central Athens hill of Lycabettus, overlooking the city and her beloved Parth-

"After all these years Dassin has an office in which to sit and write his scripts, and I can practice interior designing, read books and watch old

movies on the video," she said. She went to New York in 1989 to be treated for an undisclosed medical problem, later known to be the first signs of lung cancer. A heavy smoker to the end.

she said on return from one trip to New York: "The American doctors said I should quit smoking but what do they know. Give me a cigarette, I am back in Greece.

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Feb. 25 killing of at least 60 Palestinians at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron has brought back memories of past tragedies for both the Palestinians and the Israelis. Muslims and Jews claim the city holy in their faiths and have fought over it for years.

In many ways, Hebron has been a litmus test for all good and evil that can develop between Arabs (both Christian and Muslim) and Jews. Hebron, one of the oldest continuously inhabited towns

lieved to have been inhabited by the ancient Canaanites as early as 2000 BC. The origins of Hebron's Old Testament name -Kitvat Arba — (or the village of the four) has been the topic of heated disagree-

ments among students of his-

in Palestine, is widely be-

tory.
The main dispute amongst scholars is over whether the number four refers to the four patriarchs believed to be buried there or to the four Canaanite tribes that settled the town in pre-biblical times. Most Muslim and Jewish scholars tend to support the theory of the four patriarchs since, according to both faiths, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah, as well as Adam and Eve are buried in the

More secular scholars tend to argue that the reference is to the Canaanite tribes. Archaeologists have discovered digs at Al Rumeideh Mountain, which indicates that Hebron was inhabited by Canaanites (the most ancient people of the holy land) as early as 2000

But Jewish tradition has it that Abraham chose the Cave of Makhpelah as the burial grounds for some members of his family because he knew it to be the burial site of Adam and Eve, a theory which Muslims also believe in. "

An envoy of Moses coming from Transjordan described Hebron as the "land of milk and honey" to the Jewish prophet after returning from an exploratory expedition. According to the Book of Joshua (10:37), in 1200 BC Moses' follower Joshua invaded and destroyed the city and killed all its inhabitants.

Both Muslim and Jewish religions maintain that King Solomon laid the ground work for the Haram Al Khalil. The oldest remaining walls, however, date to Herod's epoch.

In 70 AD, the Jews revolted against the Romans and were expelled from Hebron until the city came under Muslim rule and was again



Hebron massacre (AFP photo)

Hebron massacre brings back memories of past tragedies

Haram Al Khalil was converted into a Byzantíne church in 570 AD by the Byzantine rulers of Palestine. In the 7th century, at the advent of Islam, the church was converted into a mosque which was again transformed into a church in 1099 by invading Crusaders.

The newly built church replaced both the mosque and the adjacent synagogue which marked the centre of the Haram at the time. After the Crusaders' took over of the city, Jews and Muslims were banned from it. After the defeat of the

Crusaders by Saladdin in the 12th century, the church was reconverted into a mosque. It was only after Muslim rule was restored under the Mamluk Sultans (1248-1517) that Jews and Muslims were allowed to return to the city. In 1380, another adjoining mosque, known as the "Djaouliyeh", was built by the Mamluks. Today, this mosque remains the most common point of entry into the Haram.

But despite the common heritage of expulsion and reentry into their holy shrines. many religious Jews continue to view Abraham's biblical purchase of the Cave of Makhpelah, which also contains Al Haram Al Ibrahimi as well as the rest of Hebron as exclusively Jewish for all

Arabs contest this claim and thus Hebron and the places of prayer in Al Haram Al Ibrahimi have been the site of interfaith rivalry for thousands of years. The Haram looks more

like a huge fortress than a place of worship. Rectangular in shape, the building is the most outstanding structure in all of Hebron to this Today's Hebronites are known for their frugality and

keen sense of mercantilism. Many among the population can trace their family lineage to ancient Arab tribes that have settled in Palestine since biblical times. Still, other Hebronites can trace family lineage to the Crusaders who held the town in 1100 AD and changed it's name to Castellum. The modern town of Heb-

ron is centre for trade and small industry. It is renowned for its grape harvest and durable stones, from which most houses in the West Bank are still built. Hebron has some 65,000 inhabitants. Centred around some 50 villages. Hebron remains home to some of the most orthodox

religious groups on either side of the Palestinian-Israeli divide.

The modern Jewish settlement that carries the biblical name of Kiryat Arba is located in the middle of the city. Today there are at least. three dozen settlements in the Hebron area. The settlers in Kiryat Arba number between 5.000 to 10.000 and are mostly American-Jews.

The building of Jewish settlements in the Hebron area was first officially sanctioned by former Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan on June 8, 1967, during a tour of the West Bank. In his memoirs, he wrote that "during that tour. I gave a policy directive... to act in accordance with our intentions to establish permanent Jewish settlements in the Mount Hebron and Jerusalem areas."

Unlike in the West Bank city of Nablus, where the indigenous Jewish commun-. ity continued to live after Israel was created in 1947. the small community of indigenous Hebronite Jews left the city. It is Kirvat Arba that

Baruch Goldstein, the man who shot into a crowd of worshippers on Feb. 25 in the Ibrahimi Mosque, called home.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE ISSUED BY THE "SPECIAL TENDER COMMITTEE" FOR THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

TENDER NUMBER 5/94 DIGITAL TRANSMISSION EQUIPMENT

The "Special Tender Committee" for the National Telecommunications Programme announces Tender No. 5/94 "Digital Transmission Equipment". This project is one of the main parts of the National Telecommunications Programme which aims to expand the Jordanian Telephone Network.

SCOPE OF WORK The above mentioned tender (on turn-key basis) consists of design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of the following:

A) (70) Optical-fiber links with a total length of 750 km. B) Optical Terminals using PDH & SDH technology

C) (13) Microware links including terminal & multiplex equipment D) (13) Microware towers

E) Supervisory equipment using TMN system. In addition to that, spare parts, civil works needed for cables laying and towers' erection and training of TCC staff in operation and maintenance are required.

Specialised companies are hereby invited to submit their tenders in accordance with terms, conditions and technical specifications contained in the tender documents. Tenderers are requested to submit in addition to price offer a financing proposal to finance the

foreign currency portion of the contract to be awarded.

Tenderers are requested to submit their tenders in three separate sealed envelopes as follows: FIRST: Containing the technical offer

SECOND: Containing the "Price Only" on cash basis offer THIRD: Containing price plus financing offer i.e.: a) Price based on financing.

b) The financing offer Technical offers will be opened and evaluated first. Price and financing offers for technically acceptable offers will then be opened.

Tender documents may be obtained from Tender Section/TCC headquarters, Tower Building as from Tuesday, March 8, against a non-refundable fee of (1500) one-thousand and five hundred

Tenders, accompanied by a tender guarantee, are to be submitted in English not later than 12 a.m. local time on Saturday 18, June, 1994. The technical offers will be opened in the presence of tenderers' representatives, who wish to

attend, on the same date. Note: The last date for purchasing the tender documents is April, 20, 1994.

Chairman of Special Tenders Committee' Ahmad Al-Nawawi

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE ISSUED BY THE "SPECIAL TENDER COMMITTEE" FOR THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM-

TENDER NUMBER 4/94 DIGITAL SWITCHING EQUIPMENT

The "Special Tender Committee" for the National Telecommunications Programme announces Tender No. 4/94 "Digital Switching Equipment". This project is one of the main parts of the National Telecommunications Programme which aims

SCOPE OF WORK

The above mentioned tender (on turn-key basis) consists of design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of the following: A) (21) Main exchanges

B) (80) Remote Subscriber Units (RSU's)

to expand the Jordanian Telephone Network.

C) One training model D) One repair centre

E) One network management centre F) Related power, air-conditioning & fire protection.

In addition to that, spare parts and training of TCC staff on operation and maintenance are required.

Specialised companies are hereby invited to submit their tenders in accordance with terms, conditions and technical specifications contained in the tender documents. Tenderers are requested to submit in addition to price offer a financing proposal to finance the

foreign currency portion of the contract to be awarded. IMPORTANT NOTE:

Tenderers are requested to submit their tenders in three separate sealed envelopes as follows: FIRST: Containing the technical offer SECOND: Containing the "Price Only" on cash basis offer

THIRD: Containing price plus financing offer i.e.: a) Price based on financing. b) The financing offer

Technical offers will be opened and evaluated first. Price and financing offers for technically acceptable offers will then be opened.

Tender documents may be obtained from Tender Section/TCC headquarters, Tower Building as from Tuesday, March 8, against a non-refundable fee of (2000) two-thousand Jordanian dinars, Tenders, accompanied by a tender guarantee, are to be submitted in English not later than 12 a.m. local time on Wednesday 15, June, 1994.

The technical offers will be opened in the presence of tenderers' representatives, who wish to attend, on the same date. Note: The last date for purchasing the tender documents is April, 20, 1994.

Chairman of Special Tenders Committee'

Ahmad Al-Nawawi

O: World job crisis strikes at one worker in three

Nearly one out of three workin the world's labour force at a job or is earninge to live decently, the

international Labour Organisation (iLO) reports. Despi e a decline in joblessness in the United States, the U.N. organisation with 169 menther countries calls the atuation "the worst global employm, ... crisis since the Great

Depression of the 1930s." President Clinton has invited officials of six other major industrial countries - Japan, Germany, Britain, Frnace, Itais and Canada — to a two-day meeting March 14 and 15 in

centre urges

Yamani

S. Arabia

to defend

dies (CGES).

oil market

LONDON (R) - The pet-

roleum industry may not be

able to rely on Saudi Arabia

restoring oil prices to \$18 per

barrel, says a study by the

Centre for Global Energy Stu-

oil "think tank" led by ex-

Saudi oil minister Ahmad Zaki

Yamani, also suggests that

Saudi Arabia might be wise to

defend its OPEC market

most detrimental to Saudi Arabia's interests," it said.
The CGES suggests that

prices over the next five years

The CGES study notes that Saudi Arabia's 1994 budget

signalled a cut of 19 per cent in

state spending — "regarded by many as a tacit acceptance by

the Saudi government that low

the oil industry cannot rely on

Saudi Arabia restoring oil

prices to the \$18-a-barrel

Some others in OPEC would

like Saudi Arabia to act as

swing producer and cut volume

to buoy prices, particularly when the U.N. Gulf war

embargo on Iraqi exports is-

But CGES models of future

demand on OPEC oil suggests

that the Saudis might end up

borrowing more than \$30 bil-

lion over the next five years, if

they cut their output but others

in OPEC continued to produce

dered two other scenarios.

The CGES says it consi-

One was that all 12 OPEC

members, including Iraq when it exports oil again, adopt a

capacity-based quota system.

The other was that OPEC

held to market shares agreed

last September, but hat these

would be modified to allow

Iraq to produce at capacity.

level," the CGES says.

lifted.

at capacity.

This in turn suggests that

oil prices are here to stay."

may only average \$14.

The swing producer case is

The CGES, a London-based

Detroit on ways to create new

Labour leaders from the seven countries, including Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-ClO, told Labour Secretary Robert Reich on Friday that more government spending on roads, bridges and schools is needed to create

"Unemployment, not inflation, is the main threat to the economies." the (labour) leaders said in a statement.

In this country more people are joining payrolls, and earnings are rising. But around the world, 120 million people are registered as unemployed. The

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, worned by continued problems

with its neighbour Iraq, is ex-

panding its Third World de-

velopment aid to enlarge the

diplomatic network that forged

world opposition to Iraq's

1990-91 occupation of the emi-

The small Gulf state says

problems with Baghdad after

the expulsion of Iraqi troops

from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf

war by a U.S.-led coalition

force are among incentives for

resuming its role as a generous

"We still need the support

and understanding of other

ILO believes many more millions get tired of looking for work or never bother to regis-

"Practicaly half of the 35 million unemployed workers in wetern Europe have been off the employment rolls for a year or more," Michel Hansenne, the ILO director general, said in a statement.

His report estimates another 700 million are underemployed, earning less than needed to support a minimum standard of living. The World Bank finds that the average Ethiopian, for example, earned the equivalent of \$110, about 30 cents a day, in 1992.

countries," Bader Al

Humadhi, director general of the Kuwait Fund for Arab

Economic Development, said

in an interview Monday,

adding Kuwait also acted out

aid agency and Kuwait's main

overseas aid body, is seeking

new projects for its concession-

ary loans in Latin America.

Central Asia and the Pacific.

dinars (\$7.2 billion) committed

at present to projects in 69 countries, the bulk of them

Arab African and Asian, com-

pared to about 65 before Iraq's

It has loans of 2.15 billion

The fund, the oldest Arab

of humanitarian motives.

the average income of the world's 5.5 billion people may have fallen slightly in 1993 for the fourth year in a row. Although incomes rose in many countries, losses in other countries pulled down the

Mr. Hansenne said both industrial and developing countries face persistent, long-term joblessness. Spain led the industrial countries last year with 22.7 per cent unemployment, compared with 6.9 per cent in the United States and 2.5 per cent in Japan.

"Europe's generous welfare benefits help keep unemploy-

Kuwait expands aid to build diplomatic support

"After liberation, to estab-lish a new relationship with other countries, the fund

started to look for new regions like Latin America, the Carib-

bean. Some Pacific islands, the

newly independent republics in

the Commonwealth of Inde-

pendent States, mainly those in

Central Asia, and eastern Europe Sheikh" Al Humaidhi

Despite its name, the fund,

established in 1961, has since

the mid-1970s lent to non-Arab

developing countries, from

small African states to Asian

giants like China and India.

mainly for water, electricity

and road projects.

ment high, while the relatively stingy U.S. system keeps people working, but at stagnant wages," said Barry Bosworth, a U.S. economist and senior fellow at the Brookings Institu-

"Neither addresses the real problem: Declining demand for low-skill workers," Mr. Bosworth wrote in the current issue of the bimonthly "International Economic Insights."

The ILO found the situation considerably better in eastern Asia than in most other places, Japan in recent years almost always has been at the bottom of the unemployment list, partly because big firms want to

The fund in the year to June 30, 1993 lent 147.5 million di-

nars (\$495 million), or 2.4 per

cent of national wealth as mea-

sured by gross domestic pro-duct, to foreign development

projects in 19 countries on easy

Kuwait is one of the world's

richest countries on a per capi-ta basis. In the mid-1980s its

per capita gross domestic pro-

duct was around 3,500 dinars

(\$11,800). It is now around

The fund also handles

Kuwait's contributions to

multilateral development

bodies, technical grants to

foreign institutions and the \$25

4,240 dinars (\$14.270).

they need it. As a result, many Japanese workers are kept on payrolls even when they have little to do.

have a supply of labour when

Asian unemployment figures, have been as low as singapore's 1.9 per cent in 1991 and Hong Kong's two per cent in 1992.

In the republics of the former Soviet Union, the ILO estimates that the real jobless rate may be as high as 10 per cent. Managers of state-owned enterprises prefer to put workers on unpaid leave or shorten the work week rather than lav them off, the ILO said.

million in aid Kuwait plans for

Palestinian development. Sheikh Humadhi said: "The

role of the fund after liberation

is much more important now

than it used to be, as part of the foreign policy of Kuwait, because we still, as Kuwait,

have many issues that have not

been settled yet with the Iraqi

regime and we still need the

support and understanding of

other countries,"
The problems with Iraq in-

clude Iraq's refusal to abandon

its territorial claim on the emi-

rate and the absence of hun-

dreds of Kuwaitis believed still

held by Baghdad, despite Iraqi

cades of communist rule.

announcement next week. Asked whether Poland

application would come. Hungary said last week it would hand in its application next month, the first eastern European state to do so.

"If you want to be in Europe early in the next century, we should be lodging our applica-tion quite soon," Mr. Olechowski told reporters. We do have some dates in

"Hungary believes the timetable we have in mind is a viable one," Mr. Jeszeńsky told a separate news confer-

The EU is currently completing difficult negotiations to take on four new members --

Poland to join Hungary in applying for EU membership

BRUSSELS (R) - Poland said Monday it would join Hungary in applying for membership of the European Union (EU), raising the stakes in eastern Europe's bid to integrate with the West after de-

Polish Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski told Reuters after meeting EU foreign ministers in Brussels that his country would make a formal

would say that it was formally applying to join the 12-nation bloc, Mr. Olechowski replied:

He did not say when the

Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky, who also met EU foreign ministers Monday, said he hoped his country could join by the year 2000 and Poland hinted at the same target date.

mind."

Austria, Sweden, Finland and

Norway. While those countries are among the wealthiest in the world, eastern European states face much more difficult problems in improving their economies to the standards required haq's bir

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for EU membership.

They are still repairing the damage done to their economic systems during the decades of communist rule that followed World War II.

Poland and Hungary have association agreements with the EU which provide for limited trade and aid but they consider themselves more advanced in economic terms than most of their neighbours in eastern Europe. "We have a good chance to

succeed together," siad Mr. Jeszenszky. "It is natural that the most advanced countries from the former communist world can coordinate their

European Trade Commissioner Leon Brittan said efforts were being made to imrpove trade access for eastern Europe - an issue countries such as Poland have complained about.

He said meetings of the EU association council with countries like Poland and Hungary should be seen as "building blocks" on the road to membership.

Romania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia also have associate links with the EU, but these have not yet been formally ratified by national parliaments.

While the EU has recognised that eastern European states want to join the bloc as soon as possible, it has refused to set any firm target date.

Ukraine premier presses for billions in U.S. aid is your moral right to ask, him and Russia's threat to cut off consumers and through pipe-Sunday, Mr. Kovalko said NEW YORK (R) - Ukraine's Ukraine had used about 280

acting prime minister said Sunday his country's leadership had asked the U.S. Congress to provide \$3 billion in aid over three years and urged the Jewish community to lobby Washington to extend the

Yefim Zvyagilsky told a group of religious leaders at a New York synagogue that the former Soviet Union was facing energy shortages, a bad harvest and the prolonged effects of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

He said President Leonid Kravchuk had made the request during talks at the White House on Friday. President Clinton announced after the meeting that aid to Ukraine had been doubled, to \$700

million through 1995. "President Kravchuk and our delegation asked that the U.S. Congress consider the question of granting unconditional aid of \$1 billion (a year) over the period of 1994-96." Mr. Zvvagilsky, who is Jewish, said, speaking in Russian. "We would ask you influential people to write letters to ask to demand assistance for Ukraine in this connection."

"When President Clinton was elected, the Jewish community, including those seated here today, provided him with

to fulfil your request."

Ukraine's delegation had expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the talks with Mr. Clinton, who praised Kiev's agreement to proceed with nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Zzyagilsky's announcement was the first public indication that Ukraine had submitted such an aid request and it took by surprise organisers of Sunday's ecumenical meet-

Mr. Kravchuk had earlier addressed the gathering, focusing on the role of Ukraine's Jewish community, and turned over the floor to his acting prime minister to make public the request.

A congresswoman present in the hall, Democratic representative Carolyn Muloney of New York City, said she had been unaware of the aid request. She offered no forecast of how it would be received but made plain she felt it had little

Mr. Kravchuk said at the outset of his four-day visit to the United States that Ukraine could face a slide backwards to "old times" if the West failed to provide substantial and rapid assistance for the collapsing economy.

Hyperinflation has cast most of Ukraine's 52 million people considerable assistance. Now it into poverty. Energy shortages gas supplies imminently because of Ukraine's failure to pay its debts could shut down

Mr. Clinton also said said he believed Ukraine was making progress with market reforms. Ministers accompanying Mr. Kravchuk said they were encouraged by International Monetary Fund and World Bank officials helping them draw up the country's first formai reform programme more than two years after independ-

vast sectors of industry.

Kiev trying to keep eas flowing

L kraine's top fuel official said Monday that the country, Russian gas supplies, was doing everything it can to keep supplies flowing to domestic lines to the West. "We are doing everything we can to increase the pressure

of gas for export ... and it is increasing," Mykhailo Kovalko, head of the State Committe on Oil and Gas, told Reu-The Russian gas firm Gazprom says it has cut supplies to Ukraine by 130 million cubic

metres since last Thursday because of Kiev's failure to repay a debt of 1.5 trillion roubles (\$900 million). Gazprom put previous shipments to Ukraine at more than 200 million cubic metres, well above agreed levels of about

Ukraine of taking up to 40 from pipelines leading to the

115 million. It has also accused

million cubic metres over the previous 24 hours. Gasprom said Sunday it had cut daily shipments by 80 million cubic metres on top of a previous cut of 50 million. Mr. Kovalko said Ukraine could count on 200 million cubic metres a day -- 50 mil-

million from Russia and 100 million from Ukraine's underground storages. Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency quoted a Gazprom official as saying the company was

lion from its own output, 50

now pumping about 100 mil-lion cubic metres a day to Ukrainian consumers The company has threatened

this will not happen before expected talks in Moscow on

In a television interview on India, Iran sign oil, gas accord

NICOSIA (R) - India and Iran have agreed to cooperate in oil and gas prospecting projects and to push ahead with talks on a gas pipeline from Iran to India.

Iran's news agency IRNA and Tehran Radio said Sunday night the two countries signed a cooperation agreement following talks between

Indian Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh and Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati in Tehran.

IRNA said the agreement "anticipates cooperation between the two countries in such areas as fertilisers, gas projects, prospecting for oil and gas, increase in India's oil purchase from Iran, exchange

of college students and agri-

cuitural projects." The radio said the two countries also agreed to "follow up progress already made towards the start of construction of the

Iran to India gas pipeline." India and Iran are studying the gas pipeline project estimated to cost between \$3 biltion and \$4 billion.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MARCH 8, 1994 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Sidestep a foe this evening as the Aquarian Moon squares Jupiter making financial judgement uneven, övereating likely and creating a tendency toward extravagance. Spiritual doubts may also

ARIES: (March 21 to April-19)-

Talk over with regular associates improve mutu: affairs. Be tactful in case of disagreements and they are straightened out.

TAURUS: ('April 20 to May 20) Don't be hasty in a new venture you are contemplating and improve long-time tasks. Consider a change in procedure with a bigwig.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

Plan some recreational activity with good friends that will be enjoyed by all. Avoid taking any risks where money is concerned. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to-July 21) An ideal day to improve the appearance and comfort of your home. Avoid one who has a chip-on-the shoulder attitude. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get busy at communications which are important to your well-being. An ideal day to study contracts, statements and other important

documents. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study all monetary matters with others and know how best to improve them, gain more benefits. Don't overwork physically or mentally.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Know your personal wishes really are, then go after them in a positive way. Do something thoughtful for pals and gain their goodwill.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Talking over matters with one you admire can bring fine results. You are able to solve a problem that has bothered you for a long time. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have some personal wishes that are impor-

tant to you. so go after them in a

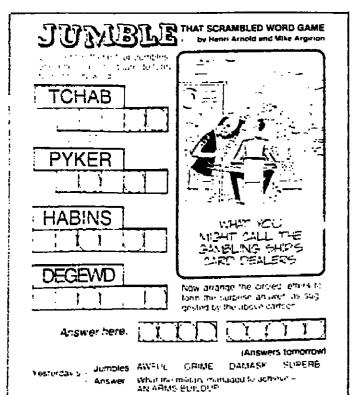
positive way. A good time to see friends and fellow associates. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Talk over an important plan with a bigwig and come to right conclusions, get fine support. Avoid an associate who wastes your time.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make arrangements now for a mutual trip with another that is important. Make new friends who can give you added knowledge and experience.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Use your intuitive facultie more gain your aims more easily at this time. Be more willing to please a loved one that you are

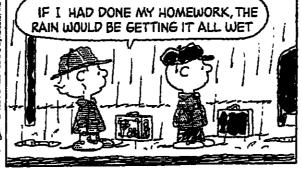
THE BETTER HALF. By Glas tergen MARRIAGE COUNSELOR "You know, at \$75 a session it's in her

best interest to keep us unhappy for as long as possible!"



Peanuts





Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Roger Jurgovan



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Jordan Times Financial Markets Cairo Amman Bank



Currescy	New York Close Dust 4/3/1994	Tokyo Close ^{Date} 7/3/1994
Sterling Pound	1.4895	1.4865
Deutsche Mark	1.7190	1.7238
Swiss Franc .	1.4415	1.4451
French Franc	5.8445	5.8565**
Japanese Yen	105.60	105.50
European Curreny Unit	1.1260	1.1231**

USD Per 5TG

Eurocurrency Interest Rates		Date: 7/3/1994		
Сигтелсу	HTM I	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.3125	3.5625	3.8750	4.3125
Sterling Pound	4.8750	4.9375	4.9375	5.0000
Deutsche Mark	5.8125	5.6250	5.4375	5.2500
Swiss Franc	4.0000	3.8750	3.8125	3.6875
French Franc	6.1250	6.0625	5.8750	5.7500
Japanese Yen	2.1250	2.0000	2.0625	2.1250
European Currency Unit	6.3700	6.2500	6.1200	5.9300

Interprete pag rates for amounts ercreated C.2. Dotters 1/660760 Oc educations					
Precious !	Metals			Date: 7/:	3/1994
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm²	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	377.15	7.40	Silver	5.22	0.120

Сштепсу	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7010	0.7030
Sterling Pound	1.0409	1.0461
Deutsche Mark	0.4061	0.4081
Swiss Franc	0.4845	0.4869
French Franc	0.1196	. 0.1202
Japanese Yen ^a	0.6635	0.6668
Dutch Guilder	0.3617	0.3635
Swedish Krona	*****	****
Italian Lira"	0.0414	0.0414

other Carrencies	Date	Date: 7/3/1994		
Сагтенсу	Bid	Offer		
Bahraini Dinar	1.8380	1.8540		
Lebanese Lira*	0.040525	0.041785		
Saudi Riyai	0.1863	0.1872		
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3300	2.3500		
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.1915		
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2200		
Omeni Riyal	1.7950	1.8150		
UAE Dirham	0.1900	0.1915		
Greek Drachma®	0.2750	0.3135		
Cypriot Pound	1.3275	1.3715		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

S. \$1.00 costs	1.3588/98
O. 41.00	1.7210/20
	1.93/94
	1.4430/40
	35.43/47
	5.8455/05
	1690.6/2.1
	105.53/63
	8.0220/20
٠.	7.4525/75
	6.7200/50
	\$1,4880/90

Canadian dollar **Deutschemarks** Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

\$377,05/377.45 One ounce of gold

Algerian prime minister says debt rescheduling 'inevitable'

PARIS (R) — The rescheduling of Algeria's \$26 billion foreign debt is inevitable. Prime Minister Redha Malek said in an interview published in Algeria Monday.

"The aggravation of the debt servicing burden, which has become untenable along with the slump in petroleum prices since the last quarter of 1993, has made rescheduling inevitable." he told the dailies El Wtan and El Khabar.

"In 1993, the foreign debt service ratio reached 83 per cent and projections for 1994 show it will probably be over 100 per cent of our export

earnings," he added.

It is the first time the Algerian authorities have used the word rescheduling in the context of foreign debt. Until now they have preferred to speak of "reprofiling" in current talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In the interview carried by the official news agency APS monitored in Paris, Mr. Malek said Algeria had to "reach a one-year stand-by agreement to ensure macro-economic stability, i.e. in our economy's domestic and foreign financial balances." The results of our talks with the IMF director in Algiers lead us to affirm there is grounds for agreement on the essential questions of the problem. We hope to reach an

France said Friday it will wait for Algeria to sign an agreement with the IMF beore giving new aid to the North African country.

accord soon," he said.

"We want an accord with the IMF so that Algeria can obtain a rescheduling of its debt and external financial resources, which are needed for Algeria's economic development, can be freed up," a foreign ministry spokeswoman told ministry's daily briefing.

"We are waiting for the agreement to be concluded for the external resources, including France's, to contribute to aiding the Algerian economy's restructuring," she added.

Last year, Paris gave about six billion francs (\$1 billion) to Algeria, which won independence from France in 1962 after a seven-year war. The money was mainly for essential food

Algeria is in the midst of negotiating a loan worth several hundred million dollars from the IMF, which is expected to be followed by a Paris Club rescheduling of its foreign

Algeria has been forced to the table with the IMF because its export earnings have plunged along with the price of oil, which provides more than 90 per cent of its hard curren-

The country is due to pay out about \$9 billion in debt service this year but its oil earnings are expected to slip below this level. Under Paris Club rules. it

annot get a break on the debt rvice unless it first siens an IMF accord, which is expected to bring a loan of several hundred dollars but also to require nainful economic reforms.

Algerian Economy Minister Mourad Benachenhou is due in Washington this week to hammer out the the details of an IMF deal, a source close to the talks said Thursday, although he is likely to need final approval from Algiers to seal an accord.

Martin Marietta, Grumman agree to a \$1.9 billion merger

MARYLAND BETHESDA, (AP) — Martin Marietta Corp. has agreed to buy Grumman Corp. in a \$1.9 billion merger of defence contractors, the companies announced Mon-

The boards of both companies unanimously approved a merger pact under which Martin Marieta will offer \$55 per share in cash for Grumman's outstanding shares.

That is, more than a 37 per cent premium over Grumman's closing price on Friday. The merger puts the new

company "on the leading edge of the industry consolidation that is so essential to preserv-ing our nation's defence capabilities and the jobs that go with them," Norman Augus-: tine, Martin Marietta chair-

"This combination will create a company with over \$13 billion in sales that will have the critical mass, breadth of programmes and depth of technology to be solidly positioned in the aerospace-electronics industry," he said.

The merger is subject to federal antitrust review. In trading on the New York Stock Exchange, Grumman, surged \$14.125 a share to \$54 while Martin Marietta was up \$1.75 a share at \$46.50.

Martin Marietta was the 10th ranking defence contractor and Grumman the 12th, in 1992, the last year for which figures are available. Defence contracts were valued at \$2.3 billion for Martin Marietta and \$2.1 billion for Grumman in 1992, the last year for which figures are available, according to the Aerospace Industries

Association. Grumman ranked seventh in NASA contracts.

Martin Marietta said it has commitments from several banks for \$2.4 billion in unsecured financing to support the tender offer. Grumman Chairman Renso

Caporali said his Bethpage, N.Y.-based company "concluded over one year ago that we could not thrive in the man, said in a statement. ...occ current business climate without making a significant strategic move.

"We looked at a number of different approaches and combinations, and this is far superior to any of our other options," he said. Martin Marietta, with nearly

93,000 employees, had sales last year of \$9.44 billion. It has facilities in 39 states and 17 foreign countries, operating in the electronics, space, information and energy sectors. Grumman has 18,000 em-

ployees and its sales last year exceeded defence electronics. commercial aircraft structures and computer information systems and software.

Asked if combining the two companies meant that Grumman would return to the business of designing military aircraft, Mr. Augustine said that was unlikely.

Mr. Caporau said the company would continue to be involved in aviation. "But that is not the same, obviously, as designing and competing for the next generation in military aircraft.

Martin Marietta, based in Bethesda, Maryland, has both expanded and contracted in the last year as the aerospace industry reshuffled in the wake of the end of the cold war. Martin Marietta merged

with G.E. Aerospace last April, then suffered the embarrassment of seeing three of that firm's satellites go awry. Later in the year, Martin bought the space business of General Dynamics, which makes the Atlas family of vehicles and said recently that the government would save \$250 million through the merger.

In September, Martin Marietta announced plans to lay off at least 3,500 employees

Government hopes to save JD 10-20m by economising

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The government was underlining the need for prudence in the public sector while dealing with taxpayers' money by ordering a flat 10 per cent cut in all "working expenditures" of all ministries and departments, Finance Minister Sami Gammoh said Monday.

Mr. Gammoh, explaining a Prime Ministry order issued earlier this week, said the government would use the savings from the operational budgets of the ministries and departments to improve public services and productive sectors of the economy.

The minister said the government was hoping to save up to JD 20 million through the ordered reductions in spending in all areas of current expenditure - water electricity. transport, communications, stationery etc.

However, he indicated that JD 20 million was not an absolute figure.

More importantly, he said, "we want to raise the awareness of everybody concerned while dealing with public funds of need to be careful and pru-

"Everyone has to ensure that resources are spent in the right channel with optimum benefits to serve the purpose for which they are allocated," he told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Gammoh said the move was also intended as a message to "all concerned," including ministers and senior decisionmaking officials at various departments that "there is a need for better management of economy" and that they should exercise control.

"Wastage has to be reduced and better utilisation of funds and cost-effectiveness have to be achieved in all government ministries and departments,' he said.

"We know this is difficult, in view of the fact that the (1994) budget is already tight," Mr. Gammoh said. "But there is no alternative if we were to advance towards self-reliance and independence from external assistance.

The JD 1.487 billion fiscal budget for 1994 projects a shortfall of JD 158 million. expected to be addressed by external assistance.

The "operational budgets" covered under the government measure are estimated at near-

ly JD 200 million for 1994. Dr. Fahed Fanek, an economist and newspaper columnist, agreed that it was "difficult to cut expenditures" but

said the government move was

"worth exploring." Reducing expenditure has been adopted by the government as a means to cut the budget deficit for several years now, "and there is a limit to which one could go in reducing expenses before reaching the

bone," Dr. Fanek said. However, the economist said he saw room for reduction in the travel expenditures and allowances for government

"I think the minister is seeking a saving of JD 10 million to JD 20 million," given the nature of expenses as given in a government circular issued Sunday, Dr. Fanek said.

'It will be worthwhile even if we save JD 1 million or JD 2 million." he said.

The circular from the Prime Ministry defined the areas of reduction as water, electricity. fuel, telephone, telex, mail and stationery expenses.

It said a significant increase in expenditure was noticed in these areas and that it was necessary to economise in line with the economic restructuring programme under way in

the Kingdom. Mr. Gammoh said the measure to cut expenditure applied also to all public sector undertakings, including institutions such as the Social Security Corporation, the Jordan Investment Bureau and other agen cies which operate directly under government guidance.

to float in April China yuan

BEIJING (R) - China's currency will start to float more freely from April 1 with the government aiming for convertibility on the current account by the year 2000, a senior official said.

The country, which for decades has kept a tight control over its hard currency, will relax foreign exchange controls over foreign trade this year. Zhu Xiaohua, vice governor of the People's Bank of China. China's central bank, has told the Xinhua news agency.

Mr. Zhu, who was made director of the State Administration of Exchange Control early this year, "said the moves will put the Chinese yuan considerably closer to being a freely convertible currency." the

news agency said. Beijing last year promised the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) that as part, body convertibility could occur within five years. But Mr. Zhu said "China will strive to make its currency

... convertible on current account within six years." Xinhua said.

In a major reform, China abolished the state-set rate for the yuan on Jan. 1, effectively devaluing the currency from 5.7 to one U.S. dollar to the 8.7 to one rate prevailing at semi-official swap centres.

The 8.7 rate has stayed steady since then, but Mr. Zhu said it would start to float from April I as the swap centres give way to a fledgling inter-bank foreign exchange market.

Mr. Zhu said the yuan would still not be allowed to float freely to avoid shocking the economy, which is still trying to change from responding to socialist-style commands to obeying the laws of the capitalist-style market.

The flotation has to be somewhat controlled, considering China's reality, especially when our fiscal and monetary policies cannot fully regulate the economy," Mr.

не promised that there would be no price limits, however, and that intervention will be conducted mainly by buying or selling hard curren-

cy, the agency said.
"We will also see the frequency of such interventions gradually reduced." Mr. Zhu

He said the unified interbank foreign exchange market will have as members the 13 major domestic banks and 88 branches of foreig inks and Sino-foreign battles.

Meanwhile, a senior economics adviser to the government was quoted as saying that the flow of foreign capital into China will continue unabated this vear. Despite the stateenforced contraction in real estate business.

While the property boom of recent years has been curbed by the government's credit clampdown, emerging sectors will provide new attractions for overseas funding, said Li Yue. secretary general of the influential China Association of Enterprises with Foreign In-

The association, which operates under the toreign trade ministry, is a key government adviser on economic policy.

"Foreign investors are expected to have a foothold in certain new sectors like banking and agriculture, while bringing about larger-scale projects," Mr. Li told the China Daily business weekly.



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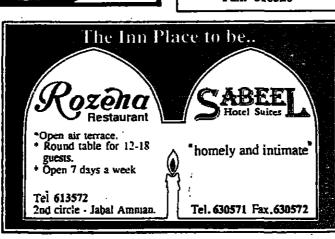
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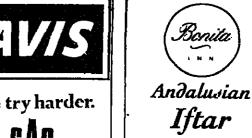
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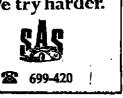
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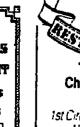
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Surviving Beatles

NEW YORK (R) — The Beaties may be getting togehter again - on a new recording, a newspaper reported at the

weekend. The voice of John

Lennon, along with the three

surviving Beatles, will be heard

in the new recording, their first in 25 years. New York News-

day said Satuday. The daily,

quoting a report in Beatlefan

magazine, said the three sur-

viving Beatles are recording

new music now, bringing the

long-held dream of a reunited

group one step closer. The

paper said the group was work-

ing with a demonstration tape

provided by Lennon's widow.

Yoko Ono, of Lennon singing

a song recorded in 1980 -

Free As A Bird. John Lennon

was murdered outside his New

York apartment in December

1980. Originally, the song had

been made public on the "lost

Lennon tapes." a syndicated

radio series. The three surviv-

ing Beatles - Paul McCart-

ney, George Harrison and

Ringo Starr - have been

adding their own instrumental

and vocal tracks, Newsday

said. It said the demonstration

tape Ono provided also in-

cludes three other songs by Lennon: Real Love also

known as Boys And Girls,

Grow Old With Me, a version

of which was issued in 1984 on

Lennon's posthumous Milk

And Honey album and a piano

number whose title has yet to

be disclosed. Newsday, quot-

ing the special edition of Beat-lefan, said considerable elec-

tronic enhancement of the

demo recordings of Lennon's

voice were needed to make

PHILADELPHIA (R) - Phi-

ladelphia police were hunting for a quartet of "little tykes"

after four gun-toting robbers

nine to 12 years old mugged

and shot a man. Police said

29-year-old Mike Molinari told

authorities he was accosted by

the children as he left his house

in the South Philadelphia

neighborhood. The four de-

manded his money. When he

heleted, the smallest boy pul-

led out a pistol and shot him.

Police said. A police spokes-

man said authorities were on

the lookout for "four little

tykes" who fled empty-

them usable.

Police seek

'little tykes'

who shot man

to join Lennon

•"

S. Africa's black, white right debate next political moves

JOHANNESBURG (R) -Black and white rightwingers met Monday to decide the next moves of their fragile alliance in the constitutional struggle over South Africa's first allrace elections in April.

One of the key members of the conservative Freedom Alliance, Mongosuthu Buthelezis's Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, has provisionally signed up for the national and regional polls.

The other black Alliance member, the nominallyindependent homeland of Bophuthatswana, put off for a week a decision on whether to register as other rightwingers met to decide the shape of international mediation.

African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, who has vowed the election date cannot be changed, has urged that Alliance members be allowed more time to register, despite the expiry of the deadline to do so.

He reiterated during a weekend campaign swing through the northern Trans-

vaal that he would be willing to go down on his knees to bring peace to a country where more than 14,000 people have died in political violence in the past four years.

Bophuthatswana spokesman Alwyn Viljoen said its cabinet decided Monday it opposed participating in the elections but that the final decision should be left to the homeland's parliament.

"A full sitting of the Bophuthatswana parliament has been called for... March 15 to decide whether or not to register," he said.

The cabinet meeting took place against a backdrop of strikes and protests in Bophuthatswana, including a go-slow by civil servants demanding protection for their pensions when apartheidcreated homelands are reincorporated into South Africa proper after the April 26-28 elections.

Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope has said any move to provisionally register his Christian Democratic Party

for the poll would have to be linked to a postponement of the elections which will end more than three centuries of white domination.

The Freedom Alliance met without Bophuthatswana in Pretoria Monday to decide on what foreign mediators they wanted to resolve the constitutional impasse keeping them out of the poll.

Inkatha wants a large measure of regional autonomy, while the two main white groups in the alliance, the Afrikaner People's Front (AVF) and the pro-apartheid Con-servative Party are demanding a white homeland in a postapartheid South Africa.

Inkatha says it will only consider taking part in the elections if its autonomy demands are suitably addressed and agreed upon following international mediation. ANC spokesman Carl

Niehaus said Monday ANC and Inkatha officials would meet Tuesday in Durban to discuss the mediation issue. Suggestions on who should

mediate range from former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Difficulties in extending the registration while the question of international mediation were discussed were practical rather than political, officials at the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) said Mon-

IEC spokesman Pieter Cronic said one of the major problems was approving the proofs and printing 80 million ballot papers — 35 million for the National Assembly and 45 million for provincial legislatures.

He said that if political parties wanted the deadline extended to bring other groups into the poll they could ask the IEC, which would in turn take the issue to the multi-party Transitional Executive Council (TEC) helping to rule in the election run up.
"If the TEC approved...

then the state president can extend the deadline by proclamation," he said.

end of his sold-out concert in Richmond, Virgi-Singer Frank Sinatra (right) is wheeled to a

he collapsed.

Sinatra collapses during performance

RICHMOND, Va (R) — Less than three hours after collapsing during a performance here Sunday night, entertainer Frank Sinatra was released from a local hospital.

Broadcast reports said Sinatra, who was released from Medical College Virginia Hospital at 12:17 a.m. est (0517 GMT). Was headed back to his home in Palm Springs, Califor-

A hospital spokeswoman said no information about his condition would be released in respect for the entertainer's privacy and further medical information would come from Sinatra's personal physician in California.

Sinatra collapsed at 9:45 est (0245 Monday GMT) during an encore following a performance at the Richmond Mosque Theatre and was taken offstage in a wheelchair before a weep-ing, cheering audience, officials and news reports said.

Shortly after arriving at the hospital, he was "talking and alert," his publicist. Susan Reynolds said through a hospital aide, Mr. Reynolds said the singer "became overheated and passed out for a few moments."

Director of facilities at the theatre. Robert Papke, said Sinatra had nearly completed his second sold-out performance at the theatre when he collapsed.

He was alert as he left for the hospital, Parke said. Members of the audience. interviewed on local television, said that a spotlight remained on Sinatra as he was lifted off the stage and placed in a

Members of the audience, some weeping, gave him an ovation as he was wheeled offstage.

Sinatra, once the singing idol of swooning fans, was singing his theme song My Way, when

"He was right in the middle of My Way. Frank looked to his son and said could you give me a chair,' a broadcast on Cable News Network reported.

"Frank pitched over and fell. His head hit the monitor. It was really horrifying," the spectator said.

Sinatra last week made an emotional speech during the Grammy ceremonies in New York, where he was presented with the U.S. music industry awards' Living Legend Award.

Sinatra currently has a hit album titled Duets, which showcases him with younger singers who once rejected his brand of pop music.

The record has been heralded as an intergenerational and technological triumph and sold two million albums in its first five months in record

Moldovans vote to keep independence

KISHINYOV, Moldova (R) An overwhelming majority of Moldovans have voted to keep their independence and ignore nationalist demands for a merger with ethnic kin in neighbouring Romania. Mol-

It said two-thirds of the 2.3 million electorate cast ballotsin a plebiscite and more than 90 per cent of those who voted were in favour of independence and maintaining the territorial integrity of the former

Sunday's vote was held a week after pro-independence parties swept parliamentary

"This plebiscite is the first step towards a new constitution," President Mircea Snegur said at the weekend. "This question will decide the fate of

MONROVIA (R) - The head

of the armed forces of Liberia

ordered his men to hand in

weapons Monday as the com-

try waited for civil war foes to

statement broadcast on gov-

government.

the whole world know that Moldova wants to be a separate and independent state.'

Most of Moldova, on the southwestern rim of the former Soviet Union, was a Romanian province until 1940 when Soviet dictator Josef Stalin annexed it. Nationalists in the republic of 4.3 million people demand unification with

Dnester Republic, whose population is mostly ethnic Russian and Ukrainian, has boycotted the vote because it says it is outside Kishinyov's authority. It also shunned last

which hundreds of people were killed. The 700,000 Slavs in the

Dnestr Republic and their 800,000 ethnic kin elsewhere in Moldova fear they would become second-class citizens in a merger with Romania; '-'Some 150,000 Gagauz Turks

in southern Moldova, who have adopted Orthodox Christianity, are holding a parailel referendum on Gagauz autonomy within Moldova. Mr. Snegur hoped the vote would solve two major political

issues - convincing the Gagauz to stay with Moldova and paving hte way for negotiations with Duester.

The Gagauz leaders lifted a threat to boycott the national referendum in exchange for promises of special autonomy.

handed. Prisoner on the run asks

policeman the way LONDON (R) - A highly dangerous prisoner on the run in Britain asked a policeman for directions when his taxi driver lost his way, the Daily Telegraph said Monday. Police are still searching for the convict. He escaped during a hospital visit in Preston, northwest England, and took the taxi across the country - pointed in the right direction by the helpful officer — before running off without paying. In a previous escape, the 28-year old armed robber hid in a house being used by police coordinating the search for

Emir warns **Kuwaitis against** 'flabbiness'

KUWAIT (R) — The Emir of Kuwait urged the emirate's citizens to curb their affluent lifestyles lest they fall prey to "arrogance and flabbiness". The ruler of the affluent Gulf state of 1.5° million people, in an annual televised address marking the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, said the emirate was at a critical stage. The persistence of the style of huxury and overspending is not a financial burden only," he added. "Rather it is in the first place the wrecking of the balanced personality and implanting of the disease of arrogance and flabbiness."

The little engines that could...

BRUSSELS (R) - Almost 200 miniature trains pulled a full-size 23-tonne railway car along several metres of track Sunday in a bid to make the Guinness Book of Records. The 199 model locomotives, 21 cm (8 in) long and weighing just 785 GM (24 OZ) were lined up in rows on 50 miniature rail tracks. When the starting whistle blowed, three models broke free, but an official said it took 38.8 seconds for the remaining 196 tiny engines to pull the wagon 5.7 metres (6.2 yards),

president calls for deeper

ALMA ATA, Kazakhstan (R) - Trees trudged through SHOW 1 1 to cast ballots in Kozałaiszania first contested pariiamentary elections, ushering in 2 more democratic era for the former Soviet republic. Fresident Nursultan Nazarbayev voted as dancing girls

reform

twirled beside him, then called for deeper economic reforms. "First of all the (new parliament) needs to pass laws which deepen the economic reforms in the banking system, taxation and the attraction of foreign investment," he told journal-

Kazakhstan, the secondbiggest ex-Soviet republic, has attracted foreign investment deals worth tens of billions of dollars since independence in 1991. Mainly in its promising oil and gas sector.

Western donors have pledged official cash in excess of \$1 billion this year to help moves toward a market economy and the dismanting of nuclear weapons on Kazakhstan's soil.

Monday's elections will replace a disbanded, part-time parliament composed of 360 members — some of them farmers, labourers and Soviet 'worker heroes" — with a full-time legislature of 177

Presidential appointees will occupy 42 of the seats. The rest will be filled by victors from 592 candidates running for several political movements or as independents in 135 districts.

Foreign diplomats said the election is likely to produce a legislature amenable to Mr. Nazarbayev's wishes. Some 218 candidates, many from opposition organisations, were barred from running and more than half of the candidates hold some state or government

"In some contexts there were very superficial and administerial reasons for some candidates not being registered," said Linda Edgeworth, an official with the United States' International Foundation for Electoral Sys-

Voters in Alma Ata, the capital, found a welcome surprise near their polling booths unusually well-stocked shops selling food at discounts. "It's special for the election," said a shop assistant. "Lemons, cucumbers, grapefruit, sardines, everything at a discount."

But some voters remained disgruntled. The election campaign has been marred by opposition allegations of government falsification and irregularities.

Several opposition groups, including the pro-Islamic nationalist Alash Movement, have been denied the right to register as a political party. Opposition parties are legal but have had less impact than

elsewhere in the region. Kazakhstan, with Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, became a nuclear power when the Soviet Union collapsed two years ago. It then had 104 SS-18 missiles, a nuclearbomber base and 1,460 warheads on its territory.

Kazakhstan U.S. must not set talks preconditions — N. Korea

TOKYO (R) -- North Korea gave the United States a fresh warning Monday that the future of their faltering dialogue would be at risk unless Washington abandoned its preconditions for a resumption of

"If the United States... create artificial difficulties in the way of the talks by bringing forward such a precondition as the exchange of special envoys between the North and South of Korea in the future, it will reveal its intention not to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula," the official Rodong Sinmun Daily said.

Months of growing tension over North Korea's nuclear ambitions eased somewhat in late February when Pyongyang agreed to allow resumption of limited U.N. inspections of its supposedly civilian nuclear sites to verify its assertion that no plutonium had been diverted for military use.

U.N. experts began carrying out their first checks there in over a vear last Thursday, after South Korea conditionally suspended joint military exercises with the United States and Washington announced a third round of high-level talks with the isolated Stalinist state aimed at improving bilateral

The current dispute turns on

a related issue. The resump-tion of contacts between the two Koreas aimed at arranging an exchange of special envoys.

The envoys' task would be toarrange an historic summit meeting between North Korean President Kim Il-Sung and his southern counterpart, Kim Young-Sam.

While the United States and Seoul say suspension of the Team Spirit joint war games was conditional on the envoy exchange. Pyongyang insists it committed itself only to begin talks on such an exchange. A first round took place Thursday but made no prog-

The following day, Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Ju, head of North Korea's delegation to the U.S. talks, warned Washington that insistence on this point could wreck the inspections agreement.

Monday's Rodong Sinmun commentary said the American position "makes us doubt whether it has the willingness to fully implement the conclusions or not."

The ruling party daily added: "The stand of the United States that it will take an action only when the other side acts first, shows that it seeks a solution to the issue from the position of strength.

Mexican ruling party candidate backs observers

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mex-ico's ruling party candidate to succeed President Carlos Salinas De Gortari said Sunday be would welcome international observers in August presidential elections.

The statement by Luis Donaldo Colosio, in a speech marking the 65th straight year in power of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), broke a long-standing party taboo and was the boldest step Mr. Colosio has yet taken toward keeping his promise of clean elections Aug. 21.

But it also raised the specter of possible defeat for the PRI - ihat after 65 years in power, it might not get a 66th, according to analysts.

The PRI has run Mexico since it was founded in 1929 in the aftermath of the bloody 1910 Mexican Revolution and is widely accused of using election fraud to keep its grip on

"The election... cannot be a closed affair," Mr. Colosio told some 40,000 supporters in a ceremony at Mexico City's domed monument to the revolution. "Transparency resides in the participation of observers, and does not exclude our citizens' and international visitors' being able to give the fullest testimony of

To ripples of applause as balloons bearing his name bobbed in the midday heat, he added: "Our election, I am fully convinced, will have nothing shameful to hide...Let us

head for victory."

Government officials have told reporters in recent days that Mr. Salinas is in favour of allowing international observers at the August elections. Mr. Salinas' own fraudtrainted 1988 election victory

over leftist challenger

Cuauhtemoc Cardenas led to months of sometimes violent protests, and government officials now fear even greater unrest if the 1994 elections are not universally accepted as

But Mr. Colosio's statement was the first open endorsement by a senior party figure of the idea, which has traditionally been seen as a violation of Mexican sovereignty.

Mr. Colosio did not say who the observers could be. Government officials said last week the observers could be from any country as long as they were not linked to any Mex-

ican political party.
Political analysts say Mr.
Salinas has been forced to speed up reform of Mexico's political system by a new year's armed rebellion of indigenous Mayan peasants in the poor southern state of Chiapas.

The self-styled Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) is demanding national democratic reform as well as social and political changes in Chiapas and and end to discrimination against Mexico's indigenous peoples.

The uprising, which claimed at least 145 lives, sparked a wave of demands across the country for greater democracy.

Talks between the EZLN and government peace commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis have led to tentative accords on the rebels' Chiapas demands, but they excluded national issues.

In parallel talks in Mexico City, Interior Minister Jorge Carpizo and Mexico's nine political parties are discussing political reforms to be brought in before the August election, including ending the PRI's control of the main electoral

U.K. may widen search in 'horror house' case

GLOUCESTER, England (R) Pelice said Monday they were considering widening their search for bodies after discovering a sixth corpse at an ordinary-looking home that newspapers have dubbed the thouse of horror."

The latest remains were found Sunday in the cellar of the three-storey semi-detached house in Gloucester, western

England.
"We have now discovered six bodies," Chief Inspector Colin Handy of the Gloucestershire Police told British Broadcasting Corporation Radio.

Frederick West, whose home is at 25 Cromwell Street. was charged last week with murdering his teenage daughter Heather, who vanished seven years ago aged 16. Hers is believed to be one of three bodies found in the house's tiny back garden.

"We've finished in the garden almost completely," Mr. Handy added, saying that searchers were digging in the basement of the house and also checking the first floor. "When we are satisfied that there are no more bodies in the

house...then we will consider moving on." Mr. West, a 52-year-old builder with some 10 children from two marriages, was scheduled to appear in court later Monday where he was ex-

pected to be charged with more murders. Mr. West has also been accused of killing teenager Shirley Robinson, a lodger at his house who was pregnant when she died, and an unknown woman believed to have been in her early 20s.

police erupted into a war in "The vote should settle all problems over unification with Romania. The people will let

dovan Radio said Monday.

Soviet republic.

our independent state."

week's polls.

In 1992, conflict between

Dnestr's Slavs and Moldovan

Liberian army chief tells men to disarm ernment radio. Officers of ECOMOG, the

African force charged with dis-

arming Liberia's rival factions,

said the operation to disarm

disarm and join a coalition "All members of the armed details. forces of Liberia (AFL) are to stay where they are and wait for ECOMOG to take their weapons," AFL General Hezekiah Bowen said in a

fighters in the country's 51month civil war was underway as scheduled but would give no

United Nations officials said talks on distribution of portfolios in the transitional government about to take office went on into the early hours of

Monday morning but the coalition partners — the outgoing administration of Amos Sawyer. Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and the rival Ulimo militia — had not yet reached agreement. A collective presidency of

delegates from the three groups was due to take office Monday and appoint ministers who will lead Liberia to elections scheduled for Sept. 7.

China draws security tight as crucial week begins

BEIJING (R) — China began the most important week of its diplomatic and political calendar Monday with a crackdown on dissent, pulling security tight before the annual session of parliament and the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The country's most famous dissident, Wei Jingsheng, remained out of Beijing Monday after he abruptly disappeared over the weekend following a 30-hour spell in police detention that sparked criticism in Washington over human

Mr. Wei's secretary, Tong

Yi, told reporters the veteran activist, officially charged with violating the terms of his September, 1993. parole, had left Beijing voluntarily.

Mr. Wei, who served close to 15 years in jail on charges of attempting to subvert the government by advocating demo-

cracy, last week met the top

U.S. official in charge of hu-

man rights and urged Washing-

ton to keep up its pressure on Beijing. Other members of China's small dissident community have been pulled in for questioning in recent days and officials have confirmed at least three have been detained on

various charges. munist leaders that they must Dissident sources said some of the cases might be condemonstrate "progress" on hunected to an underground man rights or risk losing prestatement now circulating in ferential access to U.S. mar-Beijing demanding protection kets for billions of dollars for labour interests and an end worth of exports. to the epidemic of official cor-

ruption now sweeping China. The five-point statement, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, requests parliament to consider constitutional revisions allowing freedom of speech, assembly and the right to strike in order to prevent government-sauctioned ex-

ploitation. It also demands a better deal for the country's 800 million peasants, who suffer heavily under a raft of taxes and fees often unilaterally imposed by local officials, and the right to organise labour unions free of

government control. While there is no clear evidence linking the unsigned statement to the detentions, the points underlined in the document are among those inclued in a "peace charter" signed by some of those detained in the current crack-

Beijing's sweep against dissent came just days before the arrival of Mr. Christopher, who is expected to deliver a final warning to China's Com-Clearly Beijing fears a possi-

President Bill Clinton has tied renewal of China's most favoured nation (MFN) trade status firmly to the humanrights issue, and must make a decision by June on whether or not Beijing has met his conditions for an extension.

China has rejected U.S. criticism as interference in its internal affairs and opposes hinking the issues of trade and buman rights. Mr. Christopher, who joined

Mr. Clinton in voicing concern over Mr. Wei's detention last Friday, is due to begin his visit to China on March 11. The jump in diplomatic tension comes as delegates con-

verge on Beijing for the annual meeting of China's rubberstamp parliament, the National People's Congress, which begins a two-week session on March 10.

While parliament rarely strays far from the game plan set by the Communist Party leadership, it has in the past

of relatively open political de-

bility exists this year for such a debate as China gallops toward another year of explosive economic growth and rising infla-Along with managing the economy, the government is also pushing through dramatic reforms that are widening in-come gaps, shaking established

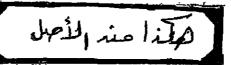
power centres and ripping

apart the "iron rice bowl" of

Socialist-style economic secur-A Beijing-controlled news agency said last week that Zhou Guoqiang, one of the three dissidents officially announced to be in detention, had planned to disrupt the parliament meeting by distributing T-shirts printed with

provocative slogans.

Mr. Zhou, who was also charged with illegal use of a fax machine and holding unapproved briefings for foreign reporters, aimed to "agitate feelings of dissatisfaction among the masses and disrupt social order" through his Tshirt plan, the Hong Kongbased China News Service



Shaq's birthday party

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (R) - Shaquille O'Neal came home for his 22nd birthday Sunday but David Robinson spoiled the party as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Orlando Magic 111-103.

Robinson had 36 points, 13 rebounds and six blocked shots to lead the Spurs, who rallied from a 16-point third quarter

O'Neal, who grew up in San Antonio and played high school basketball here, had 32 points and 11 rebounds in the marquee matchup of all-star

The Magic held an 84-68 lead with 1:53 left in the third quarter and were up by 12 at the start of the fourth. But the Sours went on a 15-3 run that pulled San Antonio even at 89-89 with 7:01 left.

A layup by sleepy Floyd, who was celebrating his 34th Unthday, put the Spurs ahead to stay at 99-98 with 2:45 re-

Dale Ellis contributed 22 points for the Spurs, while Dennis Scott chipped in 21 for

At Cleveland, John Williams scored 23 points and Bobby Phills added 19 as the streaking Cavaliers made it 10 wins in a row with a 99-95 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

Cleveland moved within 21/2 games second-place Chicago in the Central Division as the Bulls suffered their fifth straight loss — their longest slide since April, 1989.

Pete Myers scored 17 points and Luc Longley had 16 for the struggling NBA champions. Tyrone Hill chipped in 13

points and 13 rebounds for the Cavs, who have a league-best 11-1 record since the All-Star break.

At New Jersey, Armon Gilliam had 20 points and Derrick Coleman recorded his first triple-double of the season to lead the Nets to a 126-99 rout of the Philadelphia 76ers.

Coleman had 13 points, 12 rebounds, and 10 assists for his scond career triple-double. Benoit Benjamin and Kevin Edwards combined for 15 points in a 19-3 third-quarter run that blew the game open for the Nets, who had eight players in double figures.

Dana Barros had 25 points and Jeff Malone netted 18 for Philadelphia, which suffered its 13th straight loss — its longest slide since the 1972-73 season when the club managed just nine wins.

In Phoenix, Karl Malone scored 22 of his 30 points in the second half to power the Utah Jazz to their ninth-straight win, a 103-92 triumph over the

John Stockton had a seasonhigh 20 assists and 18 points as Utah won in Phoenix in the regular season for the first time in eight years. Cedric Ceballos scored 22

for the Suns, whose 10-game home winning streak was snap-ped. Charles Barkley scored 13 of his 19 points in the first half to help the Suns to a 51-50 halftime lead.

In Sacramento, Gary Payton h ad 24 points and Vincent Askew scored 19 to pace the Seattle Supersonics to a 102-85 victory over the Kings and a sweep of their home-and-home

Seattle has won five straight and improved its league-best record to 42-14.

The Sonics held an 11-point lead after one quarter and extended their advantage to 19 after opening the second with as 11-3 spurt. Seattle led 60-40 at the half and never let the Kings closer than 15 the rest of

In Denver, Mahmoud Abdul Rauf had 23 points and Laphonso Ellis added 21 to pace the Nuggets to a 117-97 rout of the Minmnesota Tim-

The Nuggets have won seven of their last nine games and moved above the .500 at 29-28 for the first time since December 10 (9-8).

Chris Smith had 25 points and Doug West scored 15 for the Timberwolves, who have lost 16 of their last 18 games.

Spurs beat Magic, spoil Horse endurance race open to all, says Princess Alia

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Horsebreeders will have a chance to test their favourite horses in a special endurance race organised by the Jordanian Arabian Horse Society (JAHS) April 15.

The 60-kilometre race will take participants from Al Yadoudeh south of Amman. passing through the early Islamic site of Qasr Al Mushatta and ending at Qasr Al Harraneh.

At a press conference Sunday at the Royal Stables at Hummar, Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein extended the invitation to all horsebreeders to participate, and stressed that the race was open and not reserved for thoroughbred Arabian horses.

Her Highness, the President of JAHS and the Arab Organisation for Arabian Horses pointed out that first prize would be given to the owner of the borse that would demonstrate high endurance and prove to be fit after an examination of fitness and stamina following the race.

The Princess also said that there would be three stops. along the course to check any injury or exhaustion and make sure that the race is completed safely.

Her Highness said that such endurance races were now being organised alongside horseshows and that the purebred Arabian horses were worthy winners of such contests proving their wellknown fitness and endur-

Princess Alia also added that prior to the endurance race sponsored by Coca Cola. 20 horses from the Royal Stables will take part in the Qatar Horse Show March 22. Horse races will also be held in Amman in May and August, before holding the annual Arabian horse show in September.

Equestrian tourney mnes Thursday

Meanwhile, the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation has announced that it will hold the final leg of the Ramadan Horse Jumping Championships on Thursday at the indoor competition arena of the Arabian Horse Club.

A press release by the federation said participants in the competition include members of the national equestrian team and rookie riders. Chairman of the board of directors of the federation Rabie Hashem said competitions will be orga-nised by the federation every Thursday, and the results will be taken on monthly basis in a bid to promote the sport.

Jordan's international Hani Al Bisharat played a key role in preparing promising riders to participate in the first category competitions, including Raad Nasser, Saad Kilani, Mona Sikhtian, Fares Taher, Omar Bibi, Yazid Jaber and Shereen Rasekh.

But embarrassed officials

said later that the photo-finish

machine had in fact proved

that Jackson's time was 7.36,

equalling the previous record

set by Foster in Los Angeles in

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Paul

Sampras rallies for champions Cup title

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) - World number one Pete Sampras relied on tenacity to overcome a less than stellar performance as the twice rallied from a set down to win the \$1,72 million Champions Cup tennis title late Sunday.

The top-seeded Sampras turned back 10th seed Peter Korda of the Czech Republic 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 in three hours and nine minutes to earn \$245,000 and his third title of

Sampras found himself in a position he is not accustomed to as he had to fight from behind for most of the match. His big serve, which accounted for 23 aces, kept him in the unhill battle when the going got tough. "I played well all week, but I

didn't play great today. Still. I managed to get through it," said Sampras, the reigning Wimbledon, U.S. Open and Australian Open champion. "I'm happy because I showed that I could turn a bad day into a good day," said Sampras, who had never been past the third round here be-

Korda's early success in the match came from engaging Sampras in long baseline rallies and successfully avoiding short serve and volley points, which are the American's strength. The 14th-ranked Korda.

who earned \$129,000 as runner-up of the 56-player hardcourt tournament, felt the match hinged on a pair of break points in the first game of the fourth set. The Czech left-hander had

won the third set on a lone service break to go up two sets to one. His big chance to get the upper hand in the fourth set came early with two break points against Sampras' serve in the first game.

When the top-ranked American saved both break points with successful net approaches, fatigue began to take its toll on the dejected Korda.

"I knew if I was going to beat him I had to do it in three or four sets," said Korda, who had upset Sampras in a fivesetter at the Grand Slam Cup last vear.

"I had longer matches than he did this week and I got tired. It was very important that I make those two break points at the beginning of the

After saving the crucial break points, Sampras broke Korda in the eighth game to take the fourth set and rolled through the deciding fifth set.

Sampras broke the tiring Czech in the first game and captured his serve again for insurance and a 4-1 lead. The top seed then confidently served out the match.

"I knew for him to beat me he would have to play three really good sets, even though I was making more errors than normal," Sampras said.

Graf captures Florida Slims, title

(R) - The Steffi Graf juggernaut rumbled onward Sunday as the world number one collected the Virginia Slims of Florida title with her 22nd consecutive straight sets victory of

the vear. Top-seed and defending champion Graf stopped second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-3, 7-5 to pick up her fourth title of the year and 83rd career singles crown.

On Sunday, Graf faced the first set points by an opponent this year. But the outcome was the same as the German rose to the occasion to keep her remarkable unblemished record going.

Sanchez, looking to avenge a 6-0, 6-2 humiliation in this year's Australian Open final, was on the verge of clinching the second set when she led 5-4, 15-40 on Graf's serve. "I realised she had two set concentrate on my serve, which I did very well," Graf said.

"I wanted to be aggressive at that moment. The first thing I told myself is to play a good first serve." Graf followed her instruc-

tions well, serving herself out of trouble and running off the final three games of the one hour and 25 minute match. Graf, who has not lost a

match since last November and has not dropped a set in 1994, collected \$80,000 for her fifth Virginia Slims of Florida title. 'She has confidence now.' said the second-ranked San-

chez, who has just five wins against Graf in 28 career meet-"She's playing her best and she knows that. But I think you

probably can break her, but

you have to play your best."

added the Spaniard, who

American 'rabbit' pulls upset

Graf rolled out to a 5-2 first-set lead before Sanchez played herself into the match and began to give the German a run for her money.

The two exchanged service breaks to open the second set and settled in for a struggle that brought Sanchez to her double set point in the 10th

"I was a litle bit unlucky. I knew if I wanted to beat her I'd have to go for my shots. At the end. I still lost the match," said Sanchez, who committed 32 unforced errors to 19 for the top seed.

Undaunted, the always confident Spaniard was already looking forward to a rematch with Graf on the next stop on the tour - the Lipton championships, where Sanchez beat Graf in the final last year.

"Next week is my week,"

Kerrigan thanks hometown for support, assails media

GOREN BRIDGE

A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

STONEHAM, Mass (R) -Thousands of Nancy Kerrigan fans turned out for a home-Olympic silver medallist, who wept in gratitude for their support, saying her eight-week rise to celebrity had been

"really, really hard." At least 50,000 fans lined the main street for the parade. "This is very emotional.

...All that happened to me in the last couple of months has been really, really hard," said Kerrigan, breaking down twice in tears during brief remarks after the event.

A bit later she told a news conference about fame: "It's all new and exciting - sometimes overwhelming and a bit

Both vulnerable. South dea's. NORTH

4 A J 10 3

SOUTE AK9865 J863 K3

Opening lead: King of

Follow the bidding and play of this deal. At the end, decided wheth-

er any of the players could have

With a minimum opening and

good six-card spade suit. South had only one story to tell. Once North had bid both minors and South

EAST

10965

North East 2 Page

3 **♣** 4 •

WEST 4 Q J 10 A K Q 10 8 7

The bidding:
South West
1 4 Pass
2 4 Pass
3 4 Pass
Bass
Bass

done better.

scarey. I'm just this girl from Stoneham who ice skates... it's very good to have this sup-

She also attacked the media for being mercurial. "The press and the media built me up," she told repor-

ters. "They want to bring me down. I don't understand it." Before and during the Olympics, Kerrigan was heralded as America's newest sweetheart. But subsequent events, such as when she complained about the delay in the medals ceremony, and said gold medallist Oksana Baiul should not bother to repair her tear-

stained make-up, she was

quickly criticised by the media.

could not bid no trump, North courageously raised to game with a low doubleton and the best contract was

West led the king of hearts and

with the possibility of a heart ruff staring everyone in the face, shifted to the queen of spades. Declarer won and surrendered a heart, but the

defenders removed dummy's last trump. Now declarer went after dia-monds, but West ruffed the third diamond and cashed a third heart

for down one. Did everything go ac-

cording to the script?
Given a 3-2 trump split—essential if the contract were to succeed—

declarer has 10 tricks going in: five spades, four diamonds and a club.

As long as declarer can protect those, the contract is a sure thing. That doesn't require any outlandish

maneuver, just simple technique. When West shifts to a trump at

trick two, declarer should simply

duck. The defenders are left without

resource. The best they can do is take another heart trick, holding de-

clarer to the contract. Should they

try anything else, declarer will be

able to draw trumps and then run

Tel.: 634144

thereby scoring an

Number of substitutes raised for World Cup

ZURICH. Switzerland (AP) - Three substitutes - one more than in the past — will be allowed at soccer games starting with this summer's World

SINDELFINGEN, Germany

(R) - Briton Colin Jackson,

disappointed three weeks ago.

trimmed 0.06 seconds off the

world indoor record in the 60

Jackson's time of 7.30

seconds means the Weishman

metres hurdles Sunday.

Cup under a rule change. The new rule lets coaches bring on two field subs and a designated replacement goalkeeper during a match. Until now, the keeper was included in the contingent of two substi-

The move, designed to give coaches more flexibility in planning tactics, was approved by soccer's rulemaking International Football Association board. The eight-man body is comprised of four officials from FIFA and one representative from each of the four

British Soccer Associations. "This is an offer to the coach," FIFA General Secretary Joseph Blatter told a news conference. He said the rule would be introduced at the World Cup hosted by the United States starting June 17. Other announcements after

the board's two-day meeting at FIFA headquarters in Zurich included. FIFA, will instruct referees at this Year's World Cup to move harshly against "reck-

less" fouls, including tackles from behind. Graham Kelly, chief executive of England's Football Association, said FIFA will stress that "referees identify dangerous play... and impose the appropriate sanction.' Blatter reiterated that he wants a mandatory expulsion for tackles from behind to be written into the game's laws.

furnished. Location: Sweifiya.

Tel.: 699238

be securely anchored to avoid accidents.

lackson takes world record

is now the sole holder of the

world record he had shared on

7.36 with American Greg Fos-

Last month, at a meeting in

Glasgow, Jackson had been

awarded the world record with

a time given as 7.35 seconds.

- The board will study whether to streamline the offside rule. Conclusions are to be unveiled next year. Kelly said while the offside rule "is one of the shortest in the book, it causes more controversy. more complexity than most.

ish associations gave no immediate reply to a request for a volunteer league to experiment with replacing throw-ins with kick-ins.

He said first divisions are unlikely to be chosen for such a trial because clubs would have to switch back to the regular playing system for international matches.

On another point, Blatter cut off a reporter trying to ask about his tiff with FIFA President Joao Havelange of Brazil. Havelange, 77, has run FIFA since 1974 and is expected to bid for a fifth term of office at the annual congress in June shortly before the World

Cup starts. Blatter, a Swiss who runs FIFA's daily operations, has criticised Havelange publicly but has not declared a candidacy for the top job.

Blatter and U.S. organisers clashed with Havelange after he banned Pele from the World Cup draw in Las Vegas last December because soccer's greatest player is in a lawsuit with Havelange's son-Havelange chaired the

board's meeting but was absent

for the press conference.

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Cinema

FOR RENT

Pilkington, paid to be the pacesetter in the Los Angeles Marathon, pulled a major surprise by winning the race Sun-No one was more shocked

than Luca Barzaghi of Italy, who finished second. Barzaghi was so confident that he mentally chose the colour he wanted for the luxury car that went to the winner. He said he did not pass Pilkington - Blatter said the four Britbecause he was told the pacesetter would do just that, set

the pace, nothing more. "The reason why I didn't go was because it was my strategy to stay with the elites.

"I was told the 'rabbit' would drop out," he said. Third-place finisher Andrzei Krzyscin of Poland also said was told the pacesetter would drop out, "100 per cent for

Pilkington said he did not understand why anyone would assume that he would quit since, as an American, he was

also competing for the U.S. championship. This was the first time the Los Angeles Marathon was designated as

the national championship

"He made a tactical mistake," he said of Barzaghi. is still a race.

"I didn't run any faster than was pre-planned. It wasn't a sporadic pace. It wasn't fast. I don't understand why he didn't

Pilkington was only the second American to win since Ric Sayre in the inaugural 1986 L.A. Marathon. Pilkington, a high school En-

glish and history teacher, was timed in 2 hours, 12 minutes, 13 seconds, and just beat a cloudburst which hit after he crossed the finish line. Bagzaghi was timed at

2:12:52 and Krzyscin of Poland was third in 2:13:21. Fractions of a second behind were Marnix Goegebeur of Belgium and Mexico's Gumer-

cindo Olmedo.

Pilkington led the pack throughout, refusing to drop out at the halfway mark.

He received \$15,000 for winning the marathon and \$12,000 for winning the national title, in addition to the undisclosed amount he was paid to set the pace. He also wound up with the Mercedes-Benz sport

Pilkington, 35, has been a marathon runner for a dozen years and has acted as a "rabbit" in the New York City, Cleveland, and Japanese marathons. His agent, Bob Wood, would not disclose how much Pilkinton would be paid for setting the pace, only saying it depended on how fast he ran per mile (1.6 kilometres). Pilkington refused

to say how much he made. "I told him, 'Paul, if nobody's there and if you feel like a human being, go for it.' His pacing job is to make sure the race is fast. None of the other competitors felt it was important to stay with him," Wood

"They didn't come with me," Pilkington said of the pake. "Tactically they made a mistake by not keeping up. I didn't decide to stay in until the 15th or 16th mile (24-26

Favoured American Ed Eyestone, who hoped to defend his title, is a friend and training partner of Pilkington. Eyestone pulled a groin muscle on Friday during a practice run and did not finish in the top 10.

Olga Appel, a Mexican who became a U.S. citizen last month led the women clocking a personal best of 2:28:12. A 40-year-old Italian runner, Emma Scaunich, was second at 2::37:05. rounding out the top five were American Silvia Mosqueda at 2:40:12 and Russians Olga Youdenkova (2:40:24) and Olga Mitchourina (2:46:01).

While the winners each received \$15,000 and the Mercedes, second place was worth

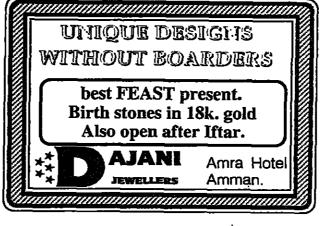
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Lebanon revives death penalty in security campaign

SEIRUT (AP) — Authorities have launched a campaign to improve security and are seeking revival of the death penalty, spurred by the recent church bombing that killed nine people.

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The blast jolted confidence in Lebanon's recovery from the 1975-1990 civil war. It was the latest blow to the state's attempts to rid Lebanon of the terrorist image it acquired as a haven for kidnappers, suicide bombers, sky pirates and assas-

An extraordinary cabinet meeting Monday approved a proposal by Justice Minister Bahij Tabbara to revive the capital punishment law, rarely enforced in the last two de-

Information Minister Michel Samaha said the cabinet would present to parliament a bill to extend the death penalty to political murders.

Under the current law only those convicted of premeditated murders are liable to the death penalty.

The cabinet also authorised the Justice Ministry to hire more judges to enhance the performance of the state's judiciary, which is facing a backlog of about 16,000 cases.

No one was arrested in the Feb. 27 bombing of the Notre Dame de la Delivrance Maronite Catholic Church in Souk Mikhael, a suburb of the port of Jounieh north of Bejrut.

Investigators continued to search for clues in the attack, which also injured 60 Sunday mass worshippers. Government opponents

have criticised the national security agencies over the failure to crack the case. Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said Monday he under-

stood the public's impatience over the course of the investigation, but lashed out at those criticising the security

"What we need to do is to strengthen security, not weaken it." he said in an interview with the independent Al Nahar newspaper.

More police and army roadblocks have popped up in Beirut and suburbs in recent days. Gun-slinging troops checked identity papers of motorists as well as vehicle registrations and went on foot patrols in the capital's narrow. crowded streets. The military dragnet was

New earthquake hits Iran

coupled by the public's own security precautions.

Churches and mosques have hired private armed guards. Attendance at worship places of all faiths is down, men are subjected to body searches before entering theatres and entertainment centres. Women's purses aree examined at many

And in at least one Christian-run university near the targetted church, the army set up a post, checking cars for possible bombs. Another Christian university has hired private security guards, who make sure students' backpacks and purses do not carry explo-

Security at the American University of Beirut, already tight since a 1991 bombing that killed one person and wounded eight, was beefed up. too. Police at gates frisked students entering the 132-acre campus in Beirut's western sector.

Unprecedented security checks also were introduced at the mid-city horse race track, which attracts an average audience of 7,000 fans every Sun-

Cars and attendants are thoroughly searched at the gates and security plainclothesmen with walkie-talkies patrol the stands through the six-hour weekly meet.

In many neighbourhoods of Beirut and outlying areas, people have been asked to be vigilant and report to police any suspicious-looking object. They were also told to watch for any unknown cars parked on the streets.

Despite the criticism, the government says it is making headway in fighting crime.

But critics point out that the culprits in the Dec. 20 carbombing of the headquarters of the Falange party, the largest rightist political group. are still unknown. That expulsion killed three people and

And police investigation into the Jan. 29 killing of Jordanian diplomat Naveb Imran Maaytah suffered a setback when the defence lawver for three Palestinian suspects demanded reinterrogation of his clients, saying confessions were extracted after police

Christian leaders urge Pope to defer visit, page 2.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NICOSIA (R) - An earthquake jolted a region of southern

Iran on Monday where three people had been killed and more

than 3,000 houses damaged in a series of tremors last week.

Iran's news agency IRNA said the early morning earthquake,

which measured 4.2 degrees on the Richter scale, shook Firuzabad city, 760 kilometres south of Tehran. "No report is

vet available on the possible loss of life or property," IRNA

said. A series of earthquakes had on Tuesday joited villages

near Firuzabad, the winter base of one of Iran's biggest

semi-nomadic tribes, killing three people and injuring 31.

Areas in southeast Iran had also been hit in the last two weeks

by a series of 14 tremors, measuring as high as 6.6 on the

Richter scale, killing six people around the town of Zahol near

Iran's border with Afghanistan and Pakistan. Iran's deadliest

DAMASCUS (R) - Syria has sacked 27 government em-

ployees convicted of dishonesty by the central supervision and

investigation authority, officials said on Monday. They said

the sacked employees used to work at several bank branches

and other departments of electricity, transportation, com-

Turkish troops kill policeman, wound nine

ANKARA (R) - Troops hunting rebel Kurds killed a police

officer and wounded nine of his men when they fired on a

special police team in eastern Turkey by mistake, an official

said on Monday. Anatolian news agency quoted Erzurum

Provincial Governor Oguz Berberoglu as saying the shooting

occurred on Sunday near Degirmendere village near Ardahan

when the troops mistook the policemen for Kurdish Labour

Party (PKK) guerrillas. It was not clear if the policemen had

been in uniform at the time. The special teams formed to fight

the PKK in the mountains often wear a motley mix of military

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AP) -- An Israeli Army

sniper shot and wounded an American news photographer in

the occupied Gaza Strip on Monday. John Gaps III. a staff

photographer for the Associated Press, said he was shot from a

distance of about 100 metres in the Jabaliya refugee camp. Mr.

Gaps said the simper, who was wearing a green beret, fired one

shot from a M-16 rifle equipped with a scope. "I saw the guy

draw down on us. There were no rocks being thrown or

anything," Mr. Gaps said from his hospital bed. "I was taking

pictures of him, and then I saw him draw down and I knew he

was going to shoot." Mr. Gaps was hit by a plastic bullet just

above the right knee, and underwent surgery at Ahli Arab

hospital in Gaza City. Army combat units deployed in the

occupied lands often designate sharpshooters who are equip-

ped with M-16 rifles and scopes to pick out ringleaders in

demonstrations. Their orders are to aim for the knee. Ibrahim

Barzak, a Palestinian reporter with Mr. Gaps, said the

shooting occurred about 10 a.m. near the main army base in

the centre of the refugee camp and next to a U.N. clinic. There

was no stone throwing at the time, only a burning tyre with a

few youths nearby, Mr. Barzak said.

Photographer shot by Israeli sniper

and civilian clothes.

munication, education, health, aviation and irrigation,

earthquake this century killed 35,000 people in 1990.

Syria sacks 27 government employees



rian Abdul Wahab Darawshe (right) and an unidentified official on Monday lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Damascus. Mr. Darawshe is leading an Israeli-Arab delega-

tion on the first visit by Israeli citizens to Syria. He will convey condolences to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on the death in January of his son Basel (see story on page 1) (AFP photo)

PLO staffers urge Arafat to quit talks

TUNIS (AP) - More than 100 Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials and staffers have sent Yasser Arafat a memo urging him to pull out of negotiations with Israel and retract agreements he made with the Jewish state in protest over the Hebron mosque mas-

The minimum that we should do vis-a-vis this horrible crime is to stop the negotiations at all levels and to suspend all accords and promses." said the letter, a copy of which was faxed to the Associated Press.

The appeal is the latest in a series of statements and letters from staffers to Mr. Arafat urging his withdrawal from the stalled negotiations. The PLO, Syria, Lebanon

and Jordan withdrew from the 28-month-old talks after a Jewish settler killed 60 Palestinians as they prayed in a mosque in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Hebron Feb. 25.

The PLO has said it will not resume talks unless Israel removes radical Israeli settlements from Arab towns and permits an international peacekeeping force in the occupied territories.

In Jordan, three Arafat confidants met with Palestinian hardliners and discussed PLO strategy following the Hebron massacre.

The discussion grouped PLO Executive Committee members and Arafat lovalists Yasser Amr, Suleiman Najjab and Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi with former members Abdul Rahim Mallouh and Tayseer

mourns Mr. Mallouh and Mr. Khalid who belong to the hardline Mercouri Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, resigned from the committee in Septem-

ber in protest against the

Israel-PLO autonomy agree-

Mr. Mallouh, whose group is

the second largest faction with-

in the PLO after Mr. Arafat's

mainstream Fateh, said the

Amman meeting focused on "reorganising the Palestinian

position... following the Heb-

that the talks could not narrow

the differences between Arafat

loyalists and the hardliners,

who call for the PLO's with-

drawal from the peace talks

and resumption of armed

tacts with them," Mr. Mallouh

memo included Arafat adviser

Zuhdi Tarazi, a former PLO observer at the United Na-

tions, and Abdul Latif Abu

Hijleh, director-general of the PLO's Political Department.
The letter urged Mr. Arafat

not to accept President Bill

Clinton's invitation to move

the negotiations to Washington

States as "the leader of world

the letter as an exercise in

"self-reproach," predicted it would have no effect on the

PLO leader, and advised dis-

gruntled members to turn their

wish to find their own solu-

He said: "The overall situa-

But Somalis tracking the

fighting said news reaching

Mogadishu showed feuding be-

tween Habre Gedir clan of

warlord Mohammad Farah

Aideed and the local Dir clan

It appears General Aideed's

clan warriors, who suffered 19

killed in Saturday's battle, had

borne the brunt of the fighting

and had withdrawn northeast

The Dir, Habre Gedir and

other clans have been feuding

over control of the fertile lands

along the Shabelle River in-

land from Merca since last

Maj. Budge said UNOSOM

forces did not get drawn into

year, the Somalis said.

was still going on.

of Merca.

tion in Merca remains stable."

tion," Maj. Budge said.

energies elsewhere.

Somali militias clash;

at least 22 killed

MOGADISHU (R) - At least

22 people were killed in

weekend clan fighting south of

Mogadishu and clashes were

continuing on Monday, a U.N.

spokesman and local Somalis

The steady slide back into

anarchy in Somalia has done

nothing to slow the withdrawal

of U.S. and allied peacekeep-

ers, with hundred of Amer-

icans due to leave on Tuesday

Budge, in a briefing on the

most serious clashes in Somalia

for months, said rival clans

fought on Saturday around the

port of Merca, 100 kilometres

south of Mogadishu. There

was an unknown number of

eration in Somalia) military

commander has attempted to

mediate between the two sides

but they are adamant that they

"The UNOSOM (U.N. Op-

wounded on both sides.

Spokesman Major Chris

(see page 2).

But an Arafat aide dismissed

"But we will continue con-

The signatories to Monday's

struggle against Israel.

added.

He told the Associated Press

ATHENS (R) - Greece mourned actress and Culture Minister Melina Mercouri on Monday. Newspapers dedicated front pages to her, radio stations played her songs and television channels screened the films that made her a star. People left flowers and personal notes at her Athens

Greece^{*}

home and her office at the culture ministry, theatres closed and flags flew at half-Mercouri died on Sunday at

the age of 68 in a New York hospital from complications after an operation for lung can-

"All Greek people mourn." said Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, a long-time friend of the actress-politician. They worshipped her and formed a personal relation with her that will endure beyond this tragic moment."

Mercouri's body will arrive on Tuesday and will be on view at Athens cathedral, where thousands are expected to pay their last respects. The funeral. with state honours, will be held on Thursday.

been loved so much by everyone," said the newspaper Eleftherotypia which carried a 1960s picture of Mercouri dancing passionately, arms outstretched above her head.

The daily Ta Nea said: "In an age of lies, she was real." Mercouri was renowned for straightforward replies to reporters' questions and nononsense rejoinders during exchanges in Greece's notoriously hard political debates.

But her tough answers were often followed by a radiant smile and her green eyes sparkled with humour.

Her 1960 film "Never on Sunday" made her an international star and helped launch Greece's post-war tourist boom with its images of a sunny, carefree country.

Mercouri used her fame to defend the nation's ancient heritage and modern democra-

The star's fiery denunciations of the military junta which seized power and ruled Greece from 1967 to 1974 cos Mercouri her citizenship. It was restored only after the fall of the dictators who banned her films and songs and issued a warrant for her arrest.

Composer Mikis Theodorakis, many of whose songs of resistance against the junta she made famous, said: "The most charming face of Greece is gone with Melina."

Afghans mob Kabul U.N. food warehouse Tuesday. He said some food

KABUL (AP) -- Hundreds of hungry Afghans scaled a wall and mobbed a mosque Monday that was holding United Nations food stocks, delaying distribution by yet another

Also, warring factions ex-changed rocket fire in the hard-hit southern and eastern parts of the city. Hospitals reported 60 wounded and one dead, but the actual toll was believed much higher.

U.N. trucks with wheat flour arrived in Kabul late Sunday, the first U.N. food supplies to reach the besieged capital since a major battle erupted Jan. 1. Aid groups planned to hand out the food Monday, but when word spread that the

supplies were at the Parwan mosque compound, the place was immediately mobbed. Hundreds of people climbed over a one-and-a-half metre

wall and tried to get to the bags "It's chaos. There's nothing we can do in a situation like this," said Mohammad Ayub, who works for Care Interna-

tional, a U.S. aid group. Guards with automatic rifles dispersed the crowd, though many were furious at being turned back.

"I haven't eaten for two days," said a woman who gave her name only as Sanya. Mr. Ayub said the food would be moved to a more secure site and distributed

already at other locations around the city might be handed out Monday.

The fighting between President Burhanuddin Rabbani's forces and Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyan's faction has left much of the city in ruins and created a worsening food crisis.

incident illustrated how desperate conditions have become. Tens of thousands of people are reliant on food handouts which are almost exhausted, aid groups say. However, Mr. Hekmatyar,

who controls the outskirts of the capital, says he will not permit any more supplies to enter

His forces stopped the U.N. trucks for several days before they were allowed to pass Sunday. The renegade prime ter said he relented this time only because U.S. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali made a personal plea in

Mr. Hekmatyar and his ally, warlord Rashid Dostum, have been unable to gain any ground despite their ferocious assault on Kabul, which has left about 1,000 dead and some 12,000 wounded. But they remain dug in on

the southern and eastern fringes of the city, controlling the main roads into Kabul.

words all last year, but things

but upstages Paris fashion shows PARIS (R) - Movie stars, not clothes, all but stole the limelight at Sonia Rykiel's readyto-wear show Sunday as Holly-There have been no reports of starvation, but Monday's

wood director Robert Altman began shooting a film about the petty side of Paris fashion. Sophia Loren, wearing an enormous black hat, sat in the front row with Kim Basinger and was immediately besieged by about 100 photographers. Stephen Rea of The Crying Game, who is playing a leading fashion photographer in Alt-man's Pret-A-Porter (ready-towear), looked on wearily as bouncers kept photographers from stampeding Laurea Bacall and Sally Kellerman Altman's movie will mix actors with real figures from the fashion world. Pret-A-Porter, to be released next year, is expected to be justers biting as Altman's film The Player which poked fun at greedy Hollywood power brokers. Reporters, anxious about approaching deadlines, grum-bled as actors were whisked in and out of the Louvre Theatre delaying the show for more than an hour. "I think it's interesting as a different way of approaching fashion," said designer Jean-Charles De Castelbajac, who will be playing him-self. Asked whether he minded

that the joke might be on him, he replied: "I trust Robert Altman. He knows what he's doing." When Rykiel's show at last began, there were a lot of tight black sweaters on tight black jeans or mohair skirts, knit ensembles in red, black and grey, and wide-legged trousers of satin or angora. Long, loose cardigans with smart little berets created a

season. Even the bride wore powder pink satin bathrobe and pyjamas to match. New crew sealed

Egypt is strong and well able to hunt down and uncover all these criminals," he said. "If they commit a crime, sooner or later they'll be caught. No one Asked if there were any

showed that the militants were

mercenaries who had nothing

"The security apparatus in

to do with Islam, he said.

will escape from the hand of leads in the case of missing Libyan opposition leader Mansour Kikhia, Mr. Mubarak said no one could be sure where or how he disappeared in Decem-

He said Mr. Kikhia, a former Libyan foreign minister. was unlike other Libyan exiles. who had close Egyptian pro-

Gunmen ambushed trains in southern Egypt on Monday morning and wounded at least six Egyptian passengers. Local police said they suspected militants trying to wreck the tourist

The militant Gamaa Al Islamiya has claimed responsibility for two attacks on trains in the past month as part of its campaign to scare foreign tourists out of the country.

Cairo said the gunmen hit two southbound trains and wounded six Egyptians.

But security sources in the southern city of Assiyut said seven people were wounded on the southbound trains and four on a third train travelling north from Luxor to Cairo.

Iran has denied accusations of financing or backing the fundamentalists in Egypt. Mr. Mubarak said Egypt was casual, elegant look, while the nevertheless ready to coopermany shorts and bathrobeate with Iran if it refrained coats seem to be a hot item this. from interfering in Egypt's in-

published Monday that Iran cooled off in recent months. had tried to kill Egypt's prime minister, but that the plot had In an interview with ternal affairs. The incident

Egypt accuses Iran

of plot to kill Sedki

Kuwait's independent Al Qabas daily, Mr. Mubarak said Iran had paid 44,000 Egyptian pounds (\$13,100) to an Egyptian plumber to finance an attack on Prime Minister Atef Sedki, but that the unidentified middleman had spent the money on himself.

Egypt's President Hosni

Mubarak said in an interview

been foiled.

Mr. Mubarak did not say way connected to a failed assassination attempt on Dr. Sedki in November. Mr. Mubarak, who has

blamed Iran for financing extremist fundamentalists seeking to overthrow his government, said the money for the plot had come through Afghanistan.

"The money does not come (to Egypt) directly, it comes through Afghanistan." Mr. Mubarak said in the interview. He said: "most probably ... the franians are the ones that pay

44,000 (pounds).' Mr. Mubarak said the plumber had been arrested.

"Instead of distributing the sum to members of his team. he bought himself a car for 26,000 pounds and made a 10.000 pound down dayment for an apartment ... and he was going to spend 5.000 on getting married." Mr. Mubarak said. He gave no other details. such as when the plot was

uncovered, and whether the man intended to use the vehicle to plant a car-bomb. A car-bomb exploded outside a Cairo school Nov. 25 as Dr. Sedki's motorcade was

passing, killing one schoolgirl and injuring 21 others. Mr. Mubarak said: "I was extending my hand to it (Iran). and was ready for cooperation on the condition that

none of us interferes in the.

affairs of the other. But they

are trying to interfere."

Gunmen hit trains

industry.

The Interior Ministry in

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Movie filming all

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Militants ki policemen

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BEIRUT (AP) Mugnested Tac

Jen at Bentut a ins Ansaman and of the 120 ann. ing here have the two Europe vince A:

Mercouri's lown hom

funeral

ATHENS (R) mai and inj Melina Mercus home to d and Greece on Tuch with full more A Maltonii Mat od Never on Sunc Sunday at a New hom complicate Gucer surgery Airways front bought her tent force or ord hy

the jury to be chosen in "When there's a guilty verdict in a previous case, jurors will do their best to put it out of their minds," said Art Raedeke of the jury consulting firm Litigation Sciences in San Francisco. "But I'm sure it has

And like the first case, most of the crimes alleged could have affected thousands of innocent people.

public crimes to which they could be victims, Mr. Raedeke said.

U.S. still has tough task in second bomb trial A federal jury found in the weapons and assault charges in some criminal defence lawyers.

NEW YORK (R) - The convictions in the World Trade Centre bombing trial are a major victory for prosecutors. but they do not guarantee the government can win a second case alleging a broader scheme of destruction of the streets of New York.

The first case, hampered by a lack of eyewitnesses, was difficult enough. But the prosecutors face an even tougher task in employing a vague and rarely-used sedition law to prove an Egyptian cleric and 13 others planned a "war of urban terrorism" in the United

പ്പെട്ടെ പ്രദേശം പ്രവിധുമാര്ക്ക day to discuss the convictions, Manhattan U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White was cautious when asked what implication the verdicts would have on the second trial, scheduled to begin in September.

first case that four people had planned and carried out the Feb. 26, 1993, blast that killed six and injured more than The government presented

more than 200 witnesses and 1,000 exhibits to support charges that the men conspired to buy and mix the chemicals used in the fatal explosion.

However, allegations in the second case are much more sweeping and vague than those in the first which were straight-

The next trial will also incal la mar e defendants, including Sheikh Omer Abdul RAnman, known for his fiery Islamic sermons, and El Sayyid Nosair, who had been aquitted of New York state charges that he murdered radical Rabbi Meir Kahane. Mr. Nosair was convicted on connection with the attack. The federal indictment reopens the 1990 shooting of Kahane and ties it to a much

broader conspiracy involving the planned bombing of the United Nations and other buildings and tunnels in New

It also alleges the group planned to murder Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. All 14 defendants are

charged with seditious conspiracy, a crime that involves plotting violence against the U.S. government or blocking law enforcement. The law does the government prove the defendants committed any overt act to further their conspiracy.

The use of the seditious conspiracy law against Sheikh Abdul Rahman and others brought sharp criticism from

They claim the law comes too close to punishing people for their beliefs or speech. They said the charges

against the cleric are particularly vague as he is accused as being someone who consulted with the others rather than taking direct action. One law enforcement offi-

cial who had been closely involved in the World Trade Centre bombing investigation, admitted the government's case against the cleric is weak. "We don't have the strongest case against him. I'd

official said. But with all the prosecutorial problems, legal experts believe that the government will at least begin the trial with an

be surprised if he was con-

victed in that second case," the

upper hand. For starters, guilty verdicts

in a related case will often result in plea agreements in a pending case, they said.

Not only might the bombing convictions affect defendants in the second case, but the widely-publicised verdicts could have a subtle impact on September.

some influence 'subconscious-

"Jurors peact differently to

inside Biosphere 2 ORACLE, Ariz (R) — A new international crew of scientists was sealed inside the glass

domes of Biosphere 2 Sunday in the second phase of a controversial experiment that has been billed as the prototype for a colony on Mars. The seven "biosphereans," clad in khakicoloured uniforms and looking more like they were off on safari than undertaking a scientific mission, filed into the airlock of the three-acre (1.2hectare) complex in the Arizona Desert as several hundred onlookers cheered. Biospheré

2 — a private venture prom-

oted by its creators as a self-

sustaining eco-system but dis-

missed by some critics as

'pseudo-science" — will be

home to the most of the new

crew members for up to a year.

But unlike the first crew, they

will not be alone. The five men and two women, all single, will

be joined periodically by visit-

ing researchers and a physician

who will make "house calls."

In a "closure' ceremony filled

with new age-sounding pro-

nouncements. Texas bil-lionaire Edward Bass, who has

bankrolled the \$150 million

project, declared that the mis-

sion of Biosphere 2 was "to

make a difference" in the

pioneering of futuristic ap-

plications in ecology. Bios-

phere 2's first experiment en-

ded last September when four

men and four women clad in

star trek-style jumpsuits

emerged after two years of

tending the giant greenhouse.

LONDON (R) — Up to two per cent of London's homeless

people may have tuberculosis,

a rate that health officials ex-

pect in developing countries

but not in Britain, a charity

said Monday. A survey by the charity Crisis found as many as

two in 100 homeless people

carry the highly infectious dis-

ease. In a survey of 250 home-less people offered chest X-

rays over six days, the charity

found four of them had tuber-

culosis (TB), three probably

had it but failed to show up for follow-up tests and 13 showed

signs of having had the disease in the past. "Such a high inci-

dence of a disease that many

people think has disappeared

reflects the appalling condi-

tions in which many homeless

people have to live," said Cri-

sis Director Mark Scothesia

2% of London

homeless may

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